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Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-067 *7 April 1994*

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Palestinian-Israeli Committees Continue Talks

Civilian Affairs, Legal Committees Meet

NC0604120294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1110 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 6 Apr (MENA)—The Civilian Affairs Committee and the Legal Committee stemming from the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations to implement the Gaza-Jericho agreement held separate meetings this morning to complete discussions of topics relating to the transfer of self-rule to the Palestinians. Palestinian sources said that the Civilian Affairs Committee yesterday completed discussions on city planning and archaeological sites. It will today complete discussions on transferring environmental powers. The legal committee discussed the formula of a general agreement in its entirety.

MENA has learned that the Israeli negotiating delegation led by Amnon Shahaq will leave Cairo this afternoon.

Japanese Ambassador in Cairo Taizo Watanabe will hold a working meeting at the headquarters of the representatives of countries granting aid to the Palestinian self-rule to discuss coordination. A Japanese diplomatic source said that Japan has earmarked $200 million, to be paid over three years, for the Palestinians in Gaza and Jericho when they take over self-rule. It earmarked $10 million to build housing units for the Palestinian police force.

PLO Delegate on Israeli Negotiating

NC0604103194 Paris AFP in English 0847 GMT 6 Apr 94

[By Maher Chmaytelli]

[Text] Cairo, April 6 (AFP)—Israel is holding back on a date for its withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho to pressure the Palestinians into giving up their demands, the PLO complained here Wednesday [6 April].

A PLO negotiator, asking not to be named, said Israel aimed to win concessions from the Palestinians on key issues such as water-sharing rights for Jewish settlers in the future autonomous areas.

The date for the Israeli army's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho is being used as a weapon to secure Palestinian concessions on several other points, he said.

The Israelis also wanted veto rights over legal matters so they could overrule decisions taken by Palestinian courts.

On archaeology, another of the issues under discussion since a new round of autonomy negotiations opened in the Egyptian capital on Sunday, Israel demanded excavation rights.

The negotiator said Israel was calculating that the PLO had more to lose from a delay in an army withdrawal, which was originally due to start on December 13 and be completed by April 13.

When the two sides failed to meet the December target set by the Declaration of Principles they signed in Washington on September 13, opponents of peace such as the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) gained ground, he noted.

To ease the pressure of time and win room for manoeuvre, the Palestine Liberation Organisation has asked for an Israeli commitment to pull out between April 13 and May 1, he said.

"Once one commits himself to a date, he really goes about to do everything to respect it," chief PLO negotiator Nabil Sha'th said on Tuesday.

But his Israeli counterpart General Amnon Shahaq remained non-committal and stressed that the emphasis was on signing a final package for the launch of autonomy.

"What is important is to have the agreement signed and it will be signed when all discussions will be finished here. I can not say when," he said. "We will continue next week and I hope it will be finished soon."

The latest round, following a five-week break because of the Hebron mosque massacre, was to wind up on Wednesday because of Israel's commemoration of the Holocaust the next day and to reopen on Sunday.

On the ground, 26 Palestinians who were exiled by Israel returned to the West Bank on Tuesday to bolster preparations for self-rule. Another 23 Palestinian exiles returned home to a hero's welcome on the Gaza Strip.

Meanwhile in Cairo, both sides were still divided over the release of Palestinian prisoners. Sha'th complained that Israel was refusing to free members of groups hostile to the peace process, including Hamas.

Talks on deploying a Palestinian police force focused on several issues, including the size of the force, a factor which appears to have been resolved in contrast to the other difficulties.

The force will be 9,000 strong, a compromise between the 10,000 demanded by the PLO and the original Israeli offer of 6,000, according to Sha'th.

Akram Haniyah, a close aide to 'Arafat, said in an Israeli newspaper interview from PLO headquarters in Tunis that Arafat should arrive in Jericho during the first week of May.

"I think 'Arafat and the political leadership of the PLO will arrive in Jericho during the first week of the month of May," he told HA'ARETZ.

However the aide added a note of caution with an eye on the talks: "The situation is still fluid. Everything depends on the outcome of the negotiations underway in Cairo."

'Arafat himself on Wednesday left Amman after talks with King Husayn to travel to the Egyptian capital where he was to guide his negotiators on the last day of talks.

Israel and the PLO were also to meet in Paris the same day to discuss economic issues.

Security Committee Ends Round

NC0604135894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1315 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 6 Apr (MENA)—The Israeli delegation led by General Amnon Shahaq left Cairo this afternoon after Palestinian and Israeli negotiators had concluded the current round of talks.

The next round of talks will resume in Cairo on Sunday [10 April].

Sha'th on Withdrawal, Police

JN0604125394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 0942 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Interview with Dr. Nabil Sha'th, head of the Palestinian delegation, by Sha'ul Menashe in Cairo; date not given; from the "With the Midday Events" program—recorded]

[Text] [Menashe] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, what is the current status of the negotiations?

[Sha'th] We are in the final days before the signing of an agreement and before the beginning of the withdrawal and entry of the Palestinian police force. In these final days, there is much and continuous work that should be done by all committees, and we are working seriously on this. We are aware that in these final days we should complete the work so that implementation can begin. In fact, implementation has actually begun. A withdrawal has begun and this is clear to all our people everywhere. Deportees are returning to shoulder specific responsibilities within the upcoming Palestinian administration. Preparations are being made for the entry of the vanguards of the Palestinian police. God willing, we will complete preparations for implementing this agreement as soon as possible.

[Menashe] Final question. Do you believe that the deployment of the Palestinian forces in the first stage should guarantee security for the Palestinian people in the territories after the departure of the Israeli forces?

[Sha'th] Undoubtedly. First, the Palestinian forces will enter before the withdrawal of the Israeli forces. The Israeli forces will then withdraw, and the Palestinian forces will become fully responsible for security.

[Menashe] When will the Palestinian forces be armed?

[Sha'th] The Palestinian forces will be armed upon their entry, but their security responsibility will begin when the Israeli forces withdraw.

[Menashe] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, thank you very much.

Sha'th: Accord on Police Numbers

JN0604200894 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, head of the Palestinian delegation to the Gaza-Jericho autonomy negotiations, has announced that the Palestinian and Israeli sides have agreed on the size of the Palestinian force that will be deployed in Gaza and Jericho.

Dr. Sha'th added that the force will consist of 9,000 personnel. [passage indistinct]

Sha'th, PLO Commander on 'Difficulties'

NC0604142894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1345 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 6 Apr (MENA)—Chief Palestinian negotiator Nabil Sha'th has said that the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations are facing difficulties "but we are seeking a solution to them."

In a statement today, Sha'th said the Palestinian forces are not ready to enter Gaza and Jericho. He said they will first come to Egypt from several Arab countries.

The Palestinian official called on the donor states to meet their obligations now, not after the signing of the agreement. He said the Palestinians need cash to finance arrangements for the entry of the Palestinian police into Gaza and Jericho.

Sha'th said Norway is the only country to pay for the Palestinian police. It has paid $2 million. The other donor countries have not met their obligations, he said.

Sha'th said the water issue will be discussed at the Civilian Affairs Committee in the next round of negotiations.

Nasr Yusuf, a PLO military commander, has stated that the vanguards of the Palestinian police force, who were scheduled to enter Gaza and Jericho, will not now go there due to problems facing the negotiations.

He said there has been no agreement on the final size of the police force or the timetable for its entry into the self-rule areas.

Yusuf said the Israelis are linking agreement on the start of the negotiations with the signing of an agreement on the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles [sentence as received].

The Palestinian official denied that the two sides agreed that the Palestinian police force should consist of 9,000 men.

In a related development, MENA has learned that difficulties appearing at the last minute prevented Israeli officers from handing over Israeli police barracks to PLO representatives in Gaza.

Sha'th: Israelis Obstructing Talks

NC0604173194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1620 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 6 Apr (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and head of the Palestinian delegation to the negotiations with the Israelis on the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement, has said that President 'Arafat reviewed the negotiations during his meeting with President Husni Mubarak this afternoon.

He said the Palestinians welcome any help to resolve the pending issues so that the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles can be implemented on schedule on 12 April.

Sha'th told journalists following the latest round of Palestinian-Israeli negotiations that President 'Arafat also discussed the results of the negotiations during his meeting with Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana. Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa was also briefed on the results, he added.

Sha'th said: We did not achieve the progress we expected to achieve to sign the final agreement on schedule on 12 April.

He accused the Israeli delegation of obstructing the negotiations. Noting that the Israeli delegation left the negotiations at this time for a long recess (three and a half days) without finalizing the issues under discussion, Sha'th said: It is difficult to blame us for this; the Israelis are entirely to blame.

Sha'th said the Israeli delegation promised to continue the negotiations by fax and telephone. We are waiting to see if this will solve the remaining problems, he said.

He stressed that this depends largely on the intentions of the Israelis and their readiness to end the negotiations on time. If this is the case, he said, a practical result can be reached on Sunday or Monday.

Sha'th went on to say: We are working and are ready to work every minute of the remaining five and a half days before Tuesday 12 April. I firmly believe that if the Israelis have good intentions there is enough time to reaching an agreement.

The Palestinian official explained that the economic talks in Paris will continue tomorrow and the day after. Had these negotiations [in Cairo] been given a similar chance, he said, they would have been completed on time.

Sha'th said the Israeli delegation's ending the negotiations ahead of schedule on the pretext of marking the holocaust (the burning of Jews by the Nazis during World War II) means the Israelis have obstructed the negotiations in some way.

We could celebrate the intifadah or any other dear national Palestinian occasion by observing a silence or by breaking up the negotiations for an hour, he said. Ending the negotiations before their time in this way, he added, is an obstruction.

Sha'th stressed that the Palestinians still insist on the specified date for the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement, that is, 13 April. He said this date is extremely important and must not be overlooked. There is enough time to achieve this, he said.

Sha'th added: The Israelis know full well what we want and what is required. I do not believe it is impossible to achieve what is required.

He said he tried to persuade the Israeli delegation to stay to complete the negotiations but the delegation insisted on leaving.

Agreement To Meet in Cairo 8 Apr

NC0704095394 Paris AFP in English 0939 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, April 7 (AFP)—Israel and the PLO have agreed to meet again in Cairo on Friday [8 April] to try to finalize an accord on launching Palestinian autonomy, chief Palestinian negotiator Nabil Sha'th said Thursday.

Palestinian and Israeli officials reached the decision over the telephone on Thursday morning, Sha'th told AFP. The two sides had agreed to reconvene on Sunday after adjourning autonomy talks on Wednesday.

They will meet Friday on the Moslem traditional day of rest.

Sha'th had criticized Israeli negotiators for heading home to observe a Holocaust remembrance day on Thursday, and said it would be difficult now to finalize an accord on launching autonomy by an April 13 deadline.

Under the September accord the two signed in Washington, Israel was to have begun withdrawing its troops from Gaza and Jericho on December 13 and completed the move by April 13.

The first deadline was missed, but PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat insisted in Jordan on Wednesday that the withdrawal take place in a week's time.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Chief, 'Arafat Discuss Peace Talks

NC0604212494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2045 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 6 Apr (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has stated that in his meeting with Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid today, they discussed the latest developments in the Palestinian-Israeli talks, whether those in Cairo, Washington, Paris, Moscow, or elsewhere. The purpose of the meeting was to put the Arab League in the picture on these latest developments, he added.

Speaking to MENA following his meeting with Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid, 'Arafat said he informed the Arab League chief that Israel was dragging its feet about implementing the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, something that marks the general Israeli position, although 13 April, the date on which Israeli troops are scheduled to withdraw from Gaza and Jericho, is approaching.

The Palestinian president described Israeli leaders' statements that the deadlines for withdrawal are not sacred as a new attempt by Israel to avoid implementing the agreements on time. He referred to the obstacles Israel is placing in front of the talks, be it at the Administrative Affairs Committee or other committees. He added: This has become a basic feature of the Israelis, who first evaded the withdrawal on 13 December and are now evasive about completing the withdrawal on 13 April as agreed upon in Washington. He pointed out that with Israel dragging its feet, the antipeace forces will seize the opportunity to get fiercer.

On Egypt's role in promoting peace, 'Arafat thanked President Mubarak for his constant efforts to boost the peace process in every direction. He described his meeting with President Mubarak today as positive and constructive, part of the constant consultations between the two sides.

'Arafat added: Our relations with Egypt are strong and outstanding in every political and economic field. He noted that the Palestinian side uses Egyptian experts in economic and other fields to face the Israeli negotiators, who are trying to be evasive about legal issues to which they committed themselves in their agreements with the Palestinians. 'Arafat pointed out that he briefed the United States and Russia, the cosponsors of peace, on Israel's intransigence over implementing the peace agreement and asked them to perform their duty in protecting the Palestinian people and sanctities and implementing the international resolutions for safeguarding the Palestinian rights.

Algerian Minister Makes Statement on AMU Summit

LD0604060194 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] The Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] has proved through its recent summit in Tunis its maturity at all levels of responsibility. This is what the Foreign Affairs Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri said in an exclusive statement to EL MASSA newspaper following the sixth summit of the AMU states.

Mr. Dembri said that political will has been mostly premature, noting that realism meant that world transformations should be taken into account and that these transformations will not allow for any individual adventure from now on. He added that it was imperative that we organize ourselves as an integral entity and hold dialogue with the others in order to become a partner either in the North- South direction, or within the framework of the Mediterranean states, or within Arab unity, or in the South-South direction.

The minister for foreign affairs spoke about the Algerian-Syrian call for the holding of a meeting of Arab Mediterranean states. He said that the call aimed at stressing the need for starting consultations between these countries so that we could agree at least on what to be said in the Mediterranean forum.

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 29 Mar

NC0504123094

[Editorial Report] The following review of the 29 March issue of Cairo 'AQIDATI summarizes articles that are Islamic in nature.

CONTENTS:

1. Cairo Mosque To Turn Into Islamic Center
2. Editorial on Terrorist 'Deceptions'
3. Seminar Urges Students To Avoid Extremist Ideas
4. Weakness of Islam Analyzed
5. Former Soviet Union Muslims Study in al-Azhar
6. Columnist on Terrorism and Image of Islam

CAIRO MOSQUE TO TURN INTO ISLAMIC CENTER

A 70-word report by Muhammad al-Abnudi on page 1 says that Awqaf Minister Dr. Muhammad 'Ali Mahjub has announced that the 'Amr-Bin- al-'As Mosque in Cairo will be turned into an integrated Islamic complex and that his ministry has prepared an open budget for this project and for repairing the mosque, which serves more than a million people. The minister's remarks came during a visit to the mosque to inspect the damage caused by the collapse of part of the wall surrounding it.

EDITORIAL ON TERRORIST 'DECEPTIONS'

A signed 250-word editorial by Samir Rajab on page 1 comments on the televised confessions of ex-terrorist 'Adil 'Abd-al-Baqi. He says that these confessions show that the deceived groups killed, stole, and sowed corruption for years, all the while realizing that they were committing crimes against their homeland and compatriots. The writer then goes on to say: "The problem is, how have they succeeded in brainwashing thousands of young people? This is the question. Do not say it is a question of unemployment or a housing crisis. There are many examples of pious and good people who refuse to commit sins despite all the enticements." He voices his view that what these groups are doing is a struggle for an illusionary authority by individuals who have set themselves up as amirs and found people to listen to them, thus degrading religion. He adds: "There are also those manipulating them from abroad who claim to be the protectors of Islam. Won't they come to their senses and know that the day of judgement will be difficult?" In conclusion, the writer says that a day will come when these guilty persons will regret their sins and that Egypt will always remain above all, "vanquishing with its true religion the lies, deceptions, and deviations."

SEMINAR URGES STUDENTS TO AVOID EXTREMIST IDEAS

A 1,500-word report on page 4 details a seminar held at the al-Haram Model Secondary Boys School during one of 'AQIDATI's convoys of Muslim scholars. The students were addressed by Islamic preacher Dr. Sabri 'Abd-al-Ra'uf, teacher of jurisprudence and head of the Islamic and Arab Studies Center at the Medical College for Men at al-Azhar University, and Dr. Mahmud Khiami, teacher of jurisprudence at the same college. After explaining the role of youth and students, which he describes as "important and serious, with big responsiblies," Dr. 'Abd-al-Ra'uf lists the instructions and guidance mentioned in the Koran about the duty of parents and guardians toward their children and their education and the young's duties to obey their elders and abide by religious teachings. He then urges the students "to prepare yourselves starting now to shoulder responsibility in the future. This requires you to rise to the level of responsibility, to be an example for Muslim youth, and to work together to protect the homeland from any harm. Prior to all this, you have to work to protect your minds. Do not listen to all that is being said to you." He then urges them not to ignore the role of the family and school and to help their homeland achieve progress and prosperity. In response to questions from various students, Dr. Khiami and Dr. 'Abd-al-Ra'uf speak at length on how Muslims should behave and act toward others, on the proper way to pray, on refraining from using bad words especially in public.

Then answering a question on the young people's duty to propagate Islam, Dr. 'Abd-al-Ra'uf says: "Your duty now, O sons, is to complete your studies. You are not required to be preachers now because preaching is a heavy responsibility and is not as easy as some people believe. Not everyone who has learned some of the Prophet's sayings or Koranic verses can make himeself a preacher. You, O noble son, should not sit with these extremists but learn from the qualified scholars."

In reply to the next question, Dr. Sabri 'Abd-al-Ra'uf says: "Regarding terrorism first, Islam does not know or condone terrorist actions. The terrorist is not a Muslim and is beyond Islam and its teachings. The prophet, God's peace and blessing be upon him, says that 'the Muslim is the one who does not harm Muslims by word or deed.' A Muslim cannot do such things. We do not see any terrorist voicing his belief in God and his prophet with his heart and tongue while he is on a spree of destruction, killing, and sabotage." On Bosnia, he says that what is happening in Bosnia and Palestine indicates that Muslims are still ignorant of their religion and that they should become aware of their present and work for their future. After urging unity of Muslims, he adds that "victory cannot be achieved because of the Islamic nation's state of divisions and fragmentation" and we should be united and obey God's book if we want to protect the honor of Muslim women in Bosnia, Palestine, Kashmir, Burma, India, and the Philippines. The two college teachers then answer various questions on the proper behavior of Muslims and the rights and duties of parents and children.

WEAKNESS OF MUSLIMS ANALYZED

A 1,200 word report on page 10 details a seminar on the current cultural crisis and the lesson of Andalusia [Spain under Arab rule], in which the speakers analyze the reasons for the weakness of the Muslim nation and unanimously agree that the main reason for this is the loss of direct contact with the Koran and that the remedy lies in going back to the true religion and its tenets. Senior preacher Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali began the seminar by saying that the Muslim nation might become sick but will never die. After warning that Muslims have become ignorant of Islam and that trivial issues have taken priority over fundamental questions, al-Ghazali says that if the nation's minds and hearts get together and are inspired by the Koran, then the Muslim nation can be qualified to become strong on the ground and sovereign—otherwise it will remain weak and humiliated. He adds: "Our present links with Islam are weak and if we rule the world now we will corrupt it because we will not be presenting the true religion or a sound relationship with God. The belief defined by the prophet must be embedded in our ethics, societies, and conditions."

Dr. 'Abd-al-Halim 'Uways, teacher of history and Islamic culture, makes the same point about loss of links with the Koran and warns that "we are facing in our Arab and Islamic world another surge of cheap and parasitic ideas: secular, materialistic, or theological. We are confronting failed schools of thought that are deeply immersed in the quagmire of sedition and are traitors to the nation's civilization and principles. These schools of

thought do not see any good in this nation's present and future except by melting in the western pot even though western and pan-Arab experiences have proved to be a failure."

FORMER SOVIET UNION MUSLIMS STUDY IN AL-AZHAR

A 1,400 words report on page 20 views the scholarships granted by the al-Azhar University for Muslim students from the former Soviet republics and interviews some of the students about their backgrounds, hopes, and ambitions.

COLUMNIST ON TERRORISM AND IMAGE OF ISLAM

A 250 comment by 'Adil Dayf on the same page argues that the source of terrorism is Israel as evidenced by the Hebron massacre. He says that there is terrorism in various countries, including Ireland, France, and the United States, but only Islam is the target of accusations. He adds that "it is the Muslims themselves who are regrettably distorting the image of Islam when they commit inhuman crimes." He then calls on every Muslim to apply true Islam and not distort it with acts that violate every law "because all forms of terrorism are rejected by Muslim and non-Muslim countries and we should wash our hands of terrorism and let the whole world hear that we condemn all forms of terrorism and crimes in the world." He adds that the first and strongest condemnation should be addressed to all inhuman crimes, whether perpetrated by a Muslim or a non-Muslim, and also to Jews who use violence to expel the Arabs.

Palestinian Affairs

Hamas Claims Responsibility for 'Afula Attack

TA0604151094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has assumed responsibility for the 'Afula attack, claiming that its men perpetrated the attack. In a leaflet distributed in Janin, Hamas said that the name of the suicide terrorist is Ra'id Zakarnah, 19, of Qabatiyah.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that a short while ago, the security forces arrived in Qabatiyah, and took Zakarnah's father to the Ha'emeq Hospital to identify the body.

Claims Ashdod Attack, Warns of More

TA0704085394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] This morning's terrorist attack at the Ashdod Junction was perpetrated by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] member 'Ali 'Abdallah, a 21-year-old resident of the al-Shati' refugee camp.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that a leaflet signed by 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam, the military arm of Hamas, was distributed in the Gaza Strip today. The leaflet stated that yesterday's terrorist attack in 'Afula was carried out by a squad member to avenge the Hebron massacre. The leaflet warned that another four retaliatory attacks are to be expected.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0830 GMT on 7 April reports that "Hamas has assumed responsibility for this morning's murderous terrorist attack in Ashdod. In a leaflet distributed a short while ago, Hamas warns that another three attacks are expected in order to complete what Hamas describes as five presents to the Zionist people to mark next week's Independence Day."]

Hamas Threatens To Fire Rockets at Israeli Homes

NC0704084894 Paris AFP in English 0659 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Jerusalem, April 7 (AFP)—The Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas warned Thursday [7 April] it will soon fire rockets at Israeli homes and urged Palestinians to stock up with food for war.

The threat in a communique distributed in the occupied territories came a day after a suicide bomber from the Hamas armed wing 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam killed seven Israelis and wounded 45 at 'Afula.

That was just the first of five major attacks to come on Israeli targets in revenge for the Hebron mosque massacre of 30 Moslems by a Jewish settlers on February 25, Hamas said.

"We are calling on settlers to evacuate now so no one will be able to accuse us of killing civilians," the communique said.

"Our al-Qassam units will shell their homes with rockets that we have received recently. Everyone knows we keep our word.

Hamas called on "shopkeepers and the people to stock up with foodstuffs because an atmosphere of war will prevail in the near future."

The statement also urged PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat to halt negotiations with Israel for one year.

"Our units will force Israeli leaders to evacuate their soldiers and settlers from Gaza, Jericho and Hebron without any conditions as a first step to liberating the whole of the West Bank and strip," Hamas said.

"We will guarantee Arafat's position as president if he agrees.

The communique noted that 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam waited until the traditional Moslem day of mourning 40 days after the Hebron slaughter to carry out the bombing in 'Afula, northern Israel.

A Palestinian gunman shot five soldiers at a bus stop in Israel on Thursday before being killed himself and two Arab workers stabbed and badly wounded a Jewish settler on the Gaza Strip, the authorities said.

Palestinian Officials Comment on 'Afula Attack

TA0704100894 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 7 Apr 94 p A5

[Report by Gay Bekhor, 'Amira Hess, and news agencies]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Dr. Zakariya al-Agha, head of Fatah in the Gaza Strip, expressed his sorrow yesterday over the attack in 'Afula. "We regret the death of every innocent person, be he a Jew, a Christian, or a Muslim. We hope such deeds will stop as soon as the peace process succeeds."

[HA'ARETZ] Do you not consider it an attempt on the part of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] to sabotage the peace process? Hamas has claimed responsibility for the attack.

[Al-Agha] We heard about it on Israel Radio, but I do not know exactly who perpetrated the deed or is responsible for it. After all, it was also reported that the Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility for it. Anybody can claim responsibility.

[HA'ARETZ] Was it not a message to Fatah by the opponents of the agreement with Israel?

[Al-Agha] Our objections and denunciations notwithstanding, the attack came in the wake of the Hebron massacre and was to be expected. When people start feeling a change in the field, there will be no such deeds.

[HA'ARETZ] But this will have no effect on people who object to such actions.

[Al-Agha] Any such attack, be it in Hebron or in 'Afula, is meant to harm the peace process. There are opponents on both sides. Support for the agreement will grow, however, and the opponents will be pushed to the sidelines when results are evident.

Attorney Furayh Abu-Middayn, formerly a member of the Palestinian delegation to the Madrid and Washington talks, also does not consider the attack a direct message against Fatah and the path it has chosen. "It was to be expected. The Hebron massacre was a turning point, and the attack yesterday was an act of revenge. Reports that thousands of Israelis consider Barukh Goldstein a hero increased the pain."

The negotiating process, Abu-Middayn said, has brought the Palestinians prolonged humiliation and has led them to the realization that it is not a fair agreement. "This is the time for talks about a permanent arrangement based on UN Resolutions 242 and 338, which recognize the national rights of the Palestinians, if they want to prevent what happened in 'Afula and what will happen tomorrow elsewhere."

Abu-Middayn added that the Americans and the French were driven out of Lebanon in the same way. "Admittedly, the attack did not take place in the occupied territories, but Israel should expect the unexpectable," he said.

[Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 7 April carries a report by Pe'erli Shahar on page 4, adding that Jad Ishaq, the PLO representative to the multilateral talks on the environment currently being held in The Hague, last night "expressed his regret over the terrorist incident in 'Afula and the loss of human life in tragic events in the region."]

Habash Affirms Intention To Foil Gaza-Jericho

TA0604171594 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 6 Apr 94 pp 1, 17

[Text] Ramallah—Dr. George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], stressed that the Palestinian national struggle entered a new political phase after the signing of the Gaza-Jericho accord. The most prominent feature of this phase is the diversion of part of the Palestinian bourgeoisie from the national program.

In an exclusive interview with AL-QUDS, Dr. Habash added: We are preparing ourselves and are working on the basis of a program of comprehensive opposition to the Madrid-Oslo program and its numerous and Islamic parties without ignoring the international link, be they international institutions or progressive organizations, parties, and forces supportive of our rights and struggle.

Dr. Habash affirmed that the future struggle will consist of two parts: First, continuing the struggle in all forms and with all available means. Second, opposing the accord and its implementation on the ground with the aim of foiling it.

Dr. Habash expects the accord to be implemented on the ground because of the international, Arab, and local support for it. He added: However, this accord greatly contradicts our people's aspirations, such as on the issue of settlements and Jerusalem, in addition to the ongoing Israeli practices. All these factors promote popular opposition, which means that the accord will fail in the future.

Dr. Habash emphasized that his opposition to the self-rule authority will be based on political, popular, and social struggle and all possible democratic forms.

On whether Arab states, especially Syria, were exerting pressure on the 10 factions, Habash said: The current situation of the official Arab system and the state of total collapse that it has reached, particularly following the second Gulf war, constitutes by itself the greatest pressure on us—as rejectionist forces—to be incorporated into the U.S. orbit. This situation, however, does not preclude the existence of Arab regimes that reject or oppose the U.S. concept of peace despite their limited role and effect.

Habash affirmed: Despite differences in views and positions, Syria is not exerting any pressure on us. On the contrary, it is showing understanding for these positions, which stem from the nature and dangers of this accord.

Dr. Habash said: For more than a year now the PLO leadership has stopped paying the PFLP its allocations

from the Palestine National Fund. The cause for this is not the financial crisis. It preceded the crisis. By doing so, it is using the same weapon which Arab and Western countries are using against it.

Dr. Habash added: Nationalist allies in Arab regimes provide us with periodic aid, which is very modest and does not meet the requirements of the struggle.

Islamic Jihad: UN 'Controlled by U.S. Policy'

LD0704113094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Security Council's speedy action in condemning the martyrdom-seeking attack by a Palestinian youth in the town of 'Afula in northern Palestine yesterday has caused the reactions of Palestinian party and organization leaders. Dr. Fathi Shaqaqi, general secretary of the Islamic Jihad in Palestine spoke to our colleague in Beirut few hours ago:

[Begin Shaqaqi recording, in Arabic with superimposed Persian translation] The stance taken by the UN general secretary and the head of the Security Council in condemnation of the martyrdom-seeking operation in 'Afula practically proves that the UN and the Security Council are controlled by U.S. policy. It took the Security Council three weeks of negotiations and great doubt to issue a resolution in condemnation of the Zionist regime in the al-Khalil massacre. But only several hours after the martyrdom-seeking operations in 'Afula, which was carried out in revenge for the al-Khalil killing, the Security Council and the UN general secretary speedily condemned the operations. This indicates the height of conformity of the UN and the Security Council to U.S. policies.

Yesterday's martyrdom-seeking operations against the Zionists is a legitimate right of the Palestinians because according to international law, residents of occupied lands have the right to operate against the occupiers. [end recording]

Dr. Shaqaqi referred to the signed agreement between PLO and the Zionist regime and said:

[Begin Shaqaqi recording] Such an agreement will not lead to peace. On the contrary it will further inflame war because this agreement will legitimize the Zionist occupation and the Palestinian people will fight this design in whatever form they can. The continuation of anti-Zionist operations in occupied Palestine is in fact an indication of people's opposition to deals with the occupiers. [end recording]

'Arafat, Spanish Foreign Minister Discuss Peace

NC0604170194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1615 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 6 Apr (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat today conferred with Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana shortly before Solana left Cairo. The meeting dealt with developments in the peace process and the position of Israel, which is placing obstacles before the process. The meeting also touched on the Spanish role in implementing Security Council Resolution 904.

The meeting was attended on the Palestinian side by PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh; Sa'id Kamal, Palestinian ambassador in Cairo; and Zuhdi al-Qidrah, the Fatah representative in Cairo. On the Spanish side, the meeting was attended by the Spanish ambassador in Cairo and some advisers.

Hebron Mayor Arrives in Cairo To Meet 'Arafat

NC0604151894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1455 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 6 Apr (MENA)—Hebron Mayor Mustafa al-Natshah arrived in Cairo from Israel today on a four-day visit.

Upon his arrival, al-Natshah said the aim of his visit was to meet President Yasir 'Arafat to brief him on the situation in Hebron and to listen to his instructions for easing the suffering of the Hebron inhabitants, who were under curfew for 30 days after which the city center was closed on the pretext of protecting Jewish families.

Al-Natshah explained that this closure inconvenienced 120,000 Palestinians. He said he would ask 'Arafat to explain this tragedy to President Mubarak so that he could try to help in this direction.

PLO Official Views Progress in Peace Process

AU0604104494 Cologne Deutschlandfunk Network in German 0437 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Telephone interview with 'Abdallah al-Franji, PLO representative in Bonn, by Vera Szoelloesi; place not given—live]

[Text] [Szoelloesi] I now welcome 'Abdallah al-Franji, PLO representative in Germany, on the telephone. Good morning.

[Al-Franji] Good morning.

[Szoelloesi] Mr. Al-Franji, have Israel and the PLO overcome the greatest obstacle to the Gaza-Jericho agreement? Can you tell us when Rabin and 'Arafat will sign it?

[Al-Franji] I think that there is no other possibility than to sign it soon because this state of affairs, that is, the present state of affairs, will result in major tensions and certain actions here and there that might stop this peace process. Therefore, it is time for both sides, that is, us, the PLO, and Israel, to sign it soon. That is to say, I expect that we will be through with everything before 13 April.

[Szoelloesi] That is to say, even before 13 April?

[Al-Franji] This is my hope and my estimate. I hope that I will be right.

[Szoelloesi] Yesterday it was said—the number of Palestinian policemen who might be deployed was controversial—that 9,000 policemen for Gaza and Jericho were agreed upon. Can you confirm this figure?

[Al-Franji] I think this figure is correct. I think that the number of policemen that the Israelis have accepted is about 8,500 to 9,000. We need so many policemen now in the Gaza Strip and Jericho because we can only have this situation under control with a strong police troop and because security will only be guaranteed for all people living there if we see to it. There is a vacuum and certain problems that have developed in these days. One can only have this under control if one is prepared for it.

[Szoelloesi] You are saying that a strong police would be needed in these days, which indicates that the PLO is aware that there are also many radical forces on the Palestinians' side and the whole of the society has also got used to something like violence. What will happen if a Palestinian police take action against Palestinians?

[Al-Franji] We are planning to refrain from violence against our people. This would be the most stupid thing that we could do. We simply have to lead the Palestinian society into a democratic process, so that the Palestinians can somehow cope with a dialogue between themselves alone. If we use force against each other, this will mean that we have peace with the Israelis, while, on the other hand, we have a situation of violence with the Palestinians. This is not the objective of the Palestinians and the PLO. We would like to develop a democratic society, but, on the other hand, order also has to be established in these days. It is not easy to establish order in a people who have lived under an occupation regime for, let us say, 27 years.

[Szoelloesi] But is your answer not also wishful thinking? I mean that this is a long-term objective. All agree on it. However, in the beginning the society will be as it is and the people will be as they are. The police will be confronted with the question of how to establish order.

[Al-Franji] Well, I think—first of all, this is not wishful thinking—that the Palestinians among themselves have been very tolerant so far. The Palestinians outside have practiced democracy for many years, for 30 years. The Palestinians in the occupied territories will not regard the PLO and the Palestinian policemen there as occupation forces. Therefore, there is a great difference between Palestinian policemen and the Israeli Army units. The Palestinians who live there are waiting for their freedom. Therefore, only minorities will carry out violent actions. This is the reason we have to see to it that such violent acts cannot be repeated and that they are not so frequent. However, the Palestinian people will welcome it and you will see that the Palestinians will be very enthusiastic when the Israeli Army leaves and, second, when the PLO comes.

[Szoelloesi] For a similar reason, that is, in order to prevent a split of the Palestinian people, the PLO also insists that Israel should not only release PLO adherents who are in Israeli prisons, but also Hamas adherents. How far have the negotiations progressed in this respect?

[Al-Franji] First of all, this is a very clever attitude of the PLO, so that the Palestinian society is not divided. Second, I think that the Israelis will also have to understand that they cannot achieve peace with the Palestinians if they distinguish between them—that is, these Palestinians are good, those Palestinians are not good. Hamas has lived in a state of war with Israel for 5 or 6 years, since the establishment of this organization. The PLO has also lived in a state of war with the Israelis for 30 years. If they strive for peace now, they have to win all Palestinians for this peace. Therefore, it is very clever if the Israelis accept the Palestinians' position and also release the imprisoned Hamas members.

[Szoelloesi] What will happen if Israel does not do this?

[Al-Franji] I hope that they will do it. What will happen? This will, of course, be negative. It will also have a negative influence on the future development. We would simply like to have a certain harmony between all Palestinian groups when we come. When we say that we are striving for a democratic Palestinian society, we mean it and we also do not want to interfere in the Israelis' affairs. The Israelis also have to learn that, according to the treaty that we signed, the Palestinians are a partner with equal rights. That is to say, we, not the Israelis, are responsible for us and for our society.

[Szoelloesi] Why has the PLO not yet dispatched a vanguard of Palestinian policemen to the Gaza Strip and Jericho? After all, the Israelis have prepared their withdrawal and are now really beginning to withdraw. Would it not be time now to send someone there as early as now and not to wait any longer? The dispatch was again postponed to Thursday, as I believe.

[Al-Franji] Well, I think that one point is also that the Israelis accepted 100 people. This number is not sufficient because here and there, on the Palestinians' side, but also on the Israelis' side, the people who want to disturb this process might take action against these 100 people, who are not armed. If they simply go there without protection—a pistol is not a weapon—another action might take place. This would expose the Palestinian authority to ridicule. We do not want this. When we get there, we want this troop to be able to defend itself at least against anybody who plans to disturb this peace process. Therefore, we are trying to convince the Israelis that they should not insist on these small matters. I hope that they will accept it. Some Israelis, above all the Israeli Army, are not yet used to treating the Palestinians as partners with equal rights.

[Szoelloesi] Thank you very much, Mr. 'Abdallah al-Franji, PLO representative in Germany.

Algeria

Security Forces Kill 18, Two Suspected Assassins

LD0604195194 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] The security forces have announced the killing of 18 members of armed groups, including two gunmen who might have carried out the assassination attempt on the leader of the Popular Association for Unity and Action. Over to Hamza Wahib for more details:

[Wahib] The security forces have announced that, following this morning's attempted assassination of Abbas Allalou, the leader of the Popular Association for Unity and Action, in El Kouthbane district in Mohammedia, they killed two gunmen who were driving a car at a place called Gatfi, on the highway east of Algiers. This happened at a roadblock erected by the security forces immediately after the assassination attempt.

The security forces have also stated that they recovered two automatic weapons and that an investigation is under way to establish whether these weapons were used in the attempted assassination of Abbas Allalou. Earlier reports released by the security forces said that the assassination attempt was carried out by two gunmen.

Moreover, the security forces have announced the killing of 16 members of armed groups and the arrest of 43 other persons in the past two days. The same source added that the operations took place in Boumerdes, Blida, Tipaza, Jijel, Batna, and Algiers provinces. The security forces also announced the recovery of several weapons, including five automatic handguns, two shotguns, one sawn-off shotgun, one MAT-49 submachine gun, and also some Kalashnikov guns [as heard].

Opposition Leader Injured in Attack

NC0604112194 Paris AFP in English 1101 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Algiers, April 6 (AFP)—A prominent Algerian businessman and opposition party leader, Mehdi Abbas Allalou, was badly injured in an attack in an Algiers suburb Wednesday, security officials said.

Allalou, leader of the small Popular Association for Unity and Action (APUA) movement, was rushed to hospital after the attack in the southeastern El Harrach district. Officials gave no details of the circumstances.

He was the third party leader to have been attacked since Moslem fundamentalists launched a bloody campaign which has claimed more than 3,000 lives since the authorities in January 1992 cancelled the second round of a general election the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was poised to win.

The FIS was subsequently outlawed.

The businessman, known for his close ties to the Gulf countries and Saudi Arabia, took a stance in favour of Kuwait when it was invaded by Iraq in 1991.

Zeroual Addresses Algerian Community in Tunisia

LD0504215594 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Excerpts] Following the [Arab Maghreb Union] summit [in Tunis], Mr. Liamine Zeroual had a number of activities including meeting with the Algerian community in Tunisia, whom he addressed and called upon to work and contribute to removing Algeria from its plight. He stressed that the state is looking with every possible care at its communities abroad.

[Begin Zeroual recording] In the Name of God the Merciful and Most Compassionate.

Ladies and gentlemen, it gives me pleasure to thank you for the good expressions of welcome which you addressed to me. [passage omitted]

The Algerian communities abroad will be the subject of special in all our decisions for the service of our country and people.

More than at any time in the past, Algeria today needs all its children to contribute to correcting the current situation, promoting its development, and strengthening its true position among the nations to enable every citizen inside or outside our borders to show the sense of honor which characterizes the Algerian people.

As you know, our country currently exists in a difficult condition characterized by the phenomena of violence and terrorism which are alien to our values and traditions. It also lives in a critical economic crisis.

You all know these problems and the ways and means defined by the Algerian people to overcome them. These ways and means stemmed from the national conference which was held in January. I am committed to making things concrete in order to emphasize the unity of the Algerian people, ensure civil peace and calm, and to provide the conditions for the free choice by the nation within the framework of sovereignty and stability. This endeavor will also encompass all the necessary actions aimed at consolidating and activating the national economy. [end recording]

The head of state's address also touched on the course Algeria is following, on democracy, and the transitional period and on far-reaching reforms which would satisfy the citizen's needs and open the door for creative initiatives. In short, he talked before everyone on the need for a break with the past.

[Begin Zeroual recording] It is a break which calls for eliminating the spirit of monopoly in the different spheres. The democracy which the transitional period would strengthen would open the field for individual and

collective freedoms. The far-reaching reforms of our national economy would not only satisfy the needs of the citizen, but would also open the field for creative initiatives. These are the new goals which would be confirmed before our expatriate community and before the whole of our Algerian people to enable everyone of us to offer his contributions to invigorate the national development effort in all spheres. [end recording]

FIS Conditions for Settlement of Crisis Reported

LD0504172794 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] Imprisoned leaders of the outlawed Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] have said that they have never previously committed themselves to issuing a appeal for halting violence in Algeria. A statement, signed by two FIS officials who were released by the Algerian authorities on 23 March, says that the imprisoned FIS leaders, chief among whom are Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj, believe that a proposal made by General Liamine Zeroual when he was defense minister was premature and ineffective.

The FIS leaders' proposal calls for the drafting of an appeal urging the Algerian people to remain calm and confident. The two FIS officials cite three conditions laid down by the FIS leaders for a political settlement of the Algerian crisis. These conditions may be summed up as the total release of the front's leaders, the provision of comprehensive and detailed information on the general situation in the country, and the opening of a direct and comprehensive dialogue with various parties to decide the country's destiny.

Army Leaders Said Working With Islamists

NC0604095694 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 1 Apr 94 p 1

[Report by Mahmud Bakri]

[Excerpt] AL-SHA'B has learned that approximately 160 senior military commanders in the Algerian Army are secretly working with the Islamists. According to diplomatic reports, these commanders are planning to deal a crushing blow to the pillars of the regime in Algeria. Approximately 40 percent of the Algerian Army's equipment and weapons has reached the hands of Islamists between November of last year and this February.

A recent report by the U.S. State Department affirms that the Islamists' control of the Algerian regime would shatter stability in the Mediterranean, Red Sea, and Arab Gulf regions. The report expresses extreme concern at the prospects of the Islamists' reaching power in Algeria, particularly because the Algerian Army has proved to be extremely weak and divided before them. The report stresses that the Algerian Army will fall under the control of the Islamists in the next six months. The report does not rule out the possibility that the Islamists could rule Algeria by next year.

The report stresses the need for rapid intervention to rescue Algeria from the "fundamentalists" and giving the U.S. fleet in the Mediterranean specific prerogatives to monitor the situation and intervene immediately should conditions become unfavorable to the government. Accordingly, reports indicate that the U.S. Defense Department (the Pentagon) has been instructed to prepare a plan on the various political and military possibilities in Algeria in the coming stage and the U.S. role to deal with them. The U.S. report stresses that the Islamists' control of the country will be harmful to U.S. security in the Mediterranean, Red Sea, and the Arab Gulf. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Commentary Notes Mubarak Talks With al-Asad

NC0604154694 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Commentary by 'Atif 'Umar: "Egypt Is an Important Center in the Arab-Israeli Peace Process"]

[Excerpts] In their summit meeting in Cairo over the past two days, Presidents Husni Mubarak and Hafiz al-Asad discussed several important issues, including the Middle East, Arab coordination, and efforts to contain differences and clear the air in the Arab capitals. The meeting highlighted that Cairo will remain a center, a forum, for all Arab leaders to discuss their issues and coordinate and plan for the region's peoples and their ambitions to solve their problems fairly and honorably.

The summit followed a new development in the Arab region due to the latest Hebron massacre and its new threats to the peace process, which was about to make some progress on the road to Arab-Israeli reconciliation. The massacre came to undermine the peace process and had it not been for the self-restraint demonstrated by the Arab region, most notably the PLO, the whole region would have seen a retreat on the course of peace through negotiations. [passage omitted]

The summit talks in Cairo showed that Syria is eager for a comprehensive peace in the region based on Security Council resolutions and international legitimacy, which rejects aggression and does not allow the occupation of others' territory by force. In a statement after seeing off Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, President Mubarak said he hoped Syria and Israel would reach an agreement. The statement emphasized the Syrian leadership's earnest desire to end the Arab-Israeli conflict and create stability and peace for the region on fair bases.

As President Mubarak explained in his answer to a question from an Israeli correspondent, peace requires sacrifices by both sides, particularly the party that occupies the land. This party has major capabilities that give it the chance to make peace with the other parties and to achieve historic reconciliation that would reflect positively on all the region's peoples. The sides are fed up

with conflicts and their dangers for both sides. History proves that things cannot remain as they are and that no one entity can remain stronger than the others forever, whatever his capabilities.

President Mubarak's continuing call on the need for the parties to be flexible about peace demonstrates that the Egyptian leadership is eager to maintain the momentum of the peace process and spare the Middle East the scourge of bloody conflicts. No one can deny the threat of these conflicts to all the peoples of the region.

'Arafat Continues Visit, Meets With Officials

Holds Talks With Mubarak

LD0604174794 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine, met in Cairo this morning with his brother Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the brotherly Arab Republic of Egypt.

During the meeting they discussed the latest developments in the peace process and ways of removing the obstacles which still stand in its path. The meeting was attended on the Palestinian side by brothers Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, member of the PLO Executive Committee; Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to brother President Abu-'Ammar; Sa'id Kamal, Palestinian ambassador in Egypt; and Zuhdi al-Qidrah, Fatah representative in Egypt. [passage omitted]

Musa on Mubarak-'Arafat Talks

NC0604144394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1315 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 6 Apr (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated during their 90-minute meeting today that Presidents Husni Mubarak and Yasir 'Arafat discussed the Middle East peace process, especially the Palestinian-Israeli track.

In a statement after the meeting Musa said: Things are moving slowly; we hope progress will be achieved in the next few days.

Musa explained that the slow pace is a result of some of the demands and the insistence on some points. The two sides, the Israelis and the Palestinians, are having difficulty agreeing on those things, he said.

The foreign minister stressed that Egypt is ready to assist the two sides and do its best. We are closely watching the talks, he said.

On today's explosion in an Israeli vehicle, where some people were killed, Musa said these incidents further complicate the current situation. He expressed the hope that all these things will be solved through negotiations and the signing of an agreement between the two sides.

Musa hopes the Palestinians and the Israelis will sign the agreement before 13 April.

Answering a question, the foreign minister stressed that the Palestinians are well organized, their positions on the disputed points are very clear, and they are ready to go forward and sign the agreement on 12 April if possible.

Asked what he thinks of the entry of Palestinian police [to Gaza and Jericho] before the signing of the agreement, Musa said: If there is an agreement and an understanding between the parties, then why not?

The foreign minister stressed the importance of continuous the negotiations, not breaking them off today and then resuming them tomorrow. He said the Israeli delegation must continue the negotiations. Its departure today, even if for specific reasons, is a kind of postponement.

Musa said he believes the negotiations should be given precedence over any other commitments.

'Arafat, Musa Discuss Developments

NC0604174294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1715 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, 6 Apr (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa conferred at the Foreign Ministry this evening with Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat and his accompanying delegation. Discussion during the meeting focused on developments relating to the Palestinian issue. They also continued to discuss the topics that President Mubarak reviewed with 'Arafat this morning. The meeting was attended by Sa'id Kamal, Palestinian ambassador in Cairo, and the Arab League assistant secretary general for Palestinian affairs.

Musa, 'Arafat Comment on Talks

NC0604194694 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat this evening. Members of the delegation accompanying the Palestinian president attended. They discussed developments in the Palestinian issue and continued discussing topics that the Palestinian president reviewed today with President Mubarak.

Musa said afterward that he held contacts with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres today on the Palestinian-Israeli peace talks and added that he hopes the talks will continue. He expressed his hope that the car bomb in Israel today will not affect the negotiations, because the peace process is important and fundamental. He said the peace process can put an end to violence and that the launch of a Palestinian entity, implementation of the Gaza-Jericho Accord, and a move toward implementing the timetable will all pacify the situation. He noted that what is required is a fast and sincere implementation of the provisions of the Declaration of Principles.

Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat said his talks with President Husni Mubarak and Musa today were important, positive, and constructive and would contribute greatly to advancing the peace process. He added that regrettably, the Palestinian side has seen no real gestures from the Israeli side for a precise, sincere, and swift implementation of what was agreed upon recently.

[In two related Cairo-datelined reports, at 1835 GMT and 1845 GMT respectively on 6 April, Cairo MENA in Arabic adds the following: "Musa ruled out the possibility of visiting Israel right now."

[" 'Arafat refused to answer a question on the explosion in Israel today."]

NADP Leadership Calls For National Dialogue

NC0104084194 Cairo AL-'ARABI in Arabic 28 Mar 94 p 1

[Text] In its meeting Thursday, the General Secretariat of the Nasirite Arab Democratic Party [NADP] decided to hold the party's second General Congress on 28 and 29 April.

In his political report to the General Secretariat meeting, NADP Secretary General Diya'-al-Din Dawud said that with the deteriorating situation in the country, the call for national dialogue has lost its credibility. He noted that violence is constantly increasing and there are more than 25,000 detainees in prisons. Nevertheless, he said, the government is repeating its claims about security and stability, imagining that it is in full control, refusing to listen to the views of the opposition, and believing that the security solution is enough to confront violence.

The secretary general said that government decisions are being determined by the policies and dictates of foreign quarters, like the World Bank and the United States. He noted the feeble government position on GATT and the government's promotion of the Middle East market from a position of impotence and capitulation.

Dawud saluted the valiant Palestinian intifadah and NADP youths and leaders at universities and in all positions for rising up to entrench the concept of pan-Arabism, defend the firm Arab right to Palestine, and confront the continuing Zionist massacres against our Arab people. He stressed that the Nasirite voice in our people's anger in the wake of the al-Ibrahhimi Mosque massacre was the loudest, strongest, and the best.

Meanwhile, the NADP has issued a statement to the nation on U.S. President Bill Clinton's description of Jerusalem as Israel's unified capital. The statement said the American remarks are a natural result of the humiliating agreement known as Gaza-Jericho and the full surrender to the Zionist enemy's designs.

Reportage on Hijacking of Sudanese Plane to Luxor

Seeking Asylum

NC0604131594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1250 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Luxor, 6 Apr (MENA)—Mahjub Husayn Muhammad, the hijacker of the Sudanese airliner, has stated that he chose to seek political asylum in Egypt because it is a safe and dear country. He said that the political, economic, and social situation in Sudan is deteriorating. The hijacked Sudanese airliner landed at Luxor airport this morning and the hijacker surrendered to the Egyptian authorities.

Plane Returns to Khartoum

NC0604153494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1455 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Luxor, 6 Apr (MENA)—The hijacked Sudanese airliner took off from Luxor Airport at 1600 today bound for Sudan.

The airliner was hijacked this morning on a domestic flight from Khartoum to al-Danaqilah. The Egyptian authorities and Armed Forces supplied the plane with fuel before it took off and provided food and medical care to its passengers.

The passengers appreciated the good hospitality they received from the Armed Forces and Egyptian officials and said it was nothing unusual from the fraternal and generous Egyptian people.

The captain of the Sudanese airliner said he would head first for al-Danaqilah and then proceed to Khartoum, adding that all the passengers are well.

A Sudanese official earlier announced that the Sudanese airliner left Luxor Airport two hours before it actually took off.

Two Sudanese Ministers on Plane

NC0704101394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0920 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Khartoum, 7 Apr (MENA)—Sudanese newspapers today published conflicting reports on the Sudanese airliner that a Sudanese national hijacked yesterday, Wednesday, and forced to land at Luxor airport.

While AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH said the plane was bound for al-Danaqilah and then Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, AL-INQADH AL-WATANI said the plane was on a domestic flight.

AL-INQADH revealed that the hijacker Mahjub Husayn Muhammad, who requested asylum in Egypt, was registered on the flight as a passenger under a false name. He revealed his real name to the Egyptian authorities, the paper said, adding that the person who carried out the operation is called 'Adil Mahjub Muhammad Ahmad.

The paper explained that domestic flights are not subject to the same passenger-list checks that international flights usually undergo.

Meanwhile, all Sudanese media as well as statements made by the Sudanese information and media minister and Sudan airways totally disregarded the presence of Sudanese ministers on the plane that returned to Khartoum last night; the hijacked plane was carrying two ministers: Education Minister Ahmad Muhammad Kapuche and Agriculture Minister Yusuf Adam [names and titles as received].

Libya

'Afula Car Bomb Exposes 'Illusion of Peace'

LD0604214894 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Nine Israelis were killed and dozens were injured today when a car bomb exploded in the heart of 'Afula settlement, in northern occupied Palestine. An Israeli military official said that so far nine Israelis had died and 50 others had been injured, most of them seriously. The official added that the explosion was the result of a suicide attack.

News reports said that a massive fire engulfed the scene of the explosion. Another Israeli official described the scene as a horrible sight. News reports have also indicated that, after this explosion, which shook the Israeli settlement, Israeli enemy forces surrounded the area, sealed off all roads from and to the occupied West Bank, and began a series of arrests among the Palestinians.

Thus, the illusion of peace which is being promoted has been exposed. It has now been confirmed that real peace could be achieved only with the return of the occupying invaders, who have colonized Palestine, to their original homelands, the return of the Palestinian people to their homeland, and the establishment of a democratic state of Palestine where Palestinians, Muslims, Christians, and Jews can live together. If this is not achieved, there can only be more massacres, more killings, and more bloodshed.

What happened today confirms an obvious reality—namely, that there will be no stability for the invaders, whatever means of repression they use and however much blood they shed. The only road of escape for the occupiers is to return immediately to the countries from which they have come as invaders.

Spain Supports Arab League Lockerbie Resolution

LD0604204994 Tripoli JANA in English 1433 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Cairo, al-Tayr [April] 6 (JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY)—The Spanish foreign minister, Javier Solana, has expressed his country's condemnation of the unjust harsh measures imposed on the Great Jamahiriyah by the Security Council at the bidding of the Western countries. He said that the Lockerbie incident had caused a state of tension and instability in the region of the Mediterranean.

After his meeting with Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, the secretary general of the Arab League, the Spanish foreign minister said that the secretary general had given him a detailed explanation of the Arab League Council resolution concerning the trying of the suspects by the International Court of Justice in the [word indistinct] and had expressed his satisfaction with this resolution. The minister said that the resolution would ensure a just and impartial trial for the suspects and complied with international resolutions.

He added that Spain strongly favoured this resolution and would be calling on the countries of the European Community to adopt it and to act to have it adopted in a serious and speedy manner. He said that his country would be co-operating with the Arab League in order to have this resolution publicised, that Spain had a special relationship with the Jamahiriyah and all the Arabs, and realised the importance of bringing an end to the Lockerbie issue, given its concern for stability and security in the region.

The Spanish foreign minister added that his country opposes the arbitrary American Western stance of rejecting all solutions aimed at defusing this crisis.

At the same time, he applauded the Great Jamahiriyah's positive response in dealing with the crisis despite the injustice it suffered as a result of the baseless measures imposed on it.

He ended by saying that Spain would soon be calling on France, Britain and the United States to realise the need to respond to this peaceful initiative and to request that they accept the Arab League's resolution.

Lawyer of Lockerbie Suspects Views Indictment

NC0604142394 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 1 Apr 94 p 4

[Interview with Ibrahim al-Ghuwayl, lawyer for the two suspects in the Pan Am bombing over Lockerbie, by Tal'at Rumayh in Tripoli; date not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Rumayh] Could you please specify the accusations against the two suspects point by point?

[Al-Ghuwayl] The accusations are based on four pieces of evidence against the suspects:

1. The fact that 'Abd-al-Basit al-Miqrahi [one of the suspects] was in Malta on 7 December. He bought things from some shop and the shop owner testified to the purchase.

2. Al-Amin Fuhaymah's [second suspect] private diary.

3. The timers, the story of which came to light with the fall of East Germany. It was discovered that the timers were also sold to East Germany.

4. The story of the suitcase shipped from Malta. But this piece of evidence was automatically dropped. Even an FBI report sent from Frankfurt to its headquarters in the United States recommended that this piece of evidence be dropped because shipping an unaccompanied suitcase from a country to another cannot be done without sending a cable with it and taking specific administrative measures. The cable is not there and no measures were taken; it would be difficult to fabricate this because a long time passed before the indictment was issued.

If some "suitcases" passed, they must have entered from Frankfurt airport without going through the detection machine. This casts much doubt on those who carried out this operation. The suitcases were American-made.

There is also a stunning thing that we will reveal soon; it will deal a crushing blow to the accusations against the Libyans.

[Rumayh] What is that?

[Al-Ghuwayl] On 30 December 1988, CIA agents visited Mr. Polier [name as published], owner of the factory producing the timers used in the bombing crime. They sought to wrest a confession from him that he sold the timers only to Libya although the piece of the timer had not yet been discovered in the plane's wreckage.

More surprisingly, this timer piece, over which Libya was accused, was not found by the Scottish police but by American FBI agents in Scotland!

This indicates that the accusation against Libya was deliberate and prearranged.

More seriously, the CIA asked the aforementioned person to say that he personally went to Malta on 20 December—a few days before the incident—to install the timers on the explosives on behalf of the Libyans. Under pressure, he wrote them something to that effect. However, circumstances did not serve them; at that specific time the same person was already booked on another flight to a different airport. They, therefore, did not use the piece of paper he wrote for them.

Regarding the testimony of the Maltese vendor who claimed that things were bought from him, it is invalid. His testimony against the suspects said that the purchase was made on a rainy day and that there was a football match between Italy and Germany on that day. We checked the weather bulletin but found that it was not raining that day. We also checked the dates of matches but did not find any match on that day. The match to which the witness referred was played on 23 November 1988, several months before that date.

There remains the story of Fuhaymah's diary. These are the papers taken from his diary. There is nothing in them. All that happened is that the accusers of al-Amin Fuhaymah joined some lines together and read them as they wanted. This is the paper, please read it! " 'Abd-al-Basit coming from Zurich with Salvo. Take the tanks." What is this? Various points on various topics and impressions. They put them together and made accusations out of them according to their whims.

[Rumayh] From your own point of view, how could this problem be solved?

[Al-Ghuwayl] This is a media effort. I believe that even among the Arabs there are those who believe that Libya is involved. The fact is that whoever carefully reads the accusations and the answers to them and whoever is versed in the legal precedents, even those in the United States, on the acceptance of holding trials in foreign countries without insisting on demanding an extradition—whoever carefully reads this will discover that all these accusations are fabricated. We are now in the process of preparing booklets to explain these matters from all the angles. We will distribute these booklets to the public, intellectuals, decisionmaking centers, and even the Arab leaders themselves.

[Rumayh] Time is in favor of which side?

[Al-Ghuwayl] So far it is in their favor. Nevertheless, certain things happened recently that refuted many of the false accusations. Following the downfall of East Germany and during the trial of intelligence officers, it was proved that the "timers" used in the bombings were also delivered to East Germany. It is not true that they were only delivered to Libya.

[Rumayh] Are the two suspects leading a normal life?

[Al-Ghuwayl] They are not leading a normal life. As is known, they are confined to their houses. According to the Montreal treaty, the authorities guarantee their presence so that they can be brought in at any time. We have not asked for changing this treatment so that the option of their trial in Libya will also remain open.

Morocco

Yemeni Envoy Arrives With Message for King

LD0604215994 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Yahiya Husayn al-Arashi, the Yemeni minister of civil service and administrative reform, arrived in our country today bringing a message from President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to his majesty the king.

The Yemeni envoy said in a statement to the television:

[Begin al-Arashi recording] His Excellency President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has entrusted me with delivering a written message to his brother, His Majesty King Hassan II. This is no doubt an opportunity to give his majesty a picture of developments in the situation in the Yemeni arena and the discussions that are taking place in connection with the national issue and the democratic

process in Yemen. It is also a suitable opportunity to report on the recent developments in this sphere, and as usual we will be listening to his majesty on matters which would be of help to us. We know that he follows the Yemeni issue closely. Moreover, the Yemeni issue concerns everyone in the Arab arena, and particularly in sisterly Morocco. [end recording]

Prime Minister Receives Saudi Agriculture Minister

LD0704001194 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] This evening, in his office, Prime Minister Mohamed Karim Lambrani received Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Shaykh, the Saudi minister of agriculture and water resources, in the presence of Finance Minister Mohamed Sagou, Abdelaziz Meziane Belfkih, minister of agriculture and agrarian reform, and Mohamed Seqat, governor of the Bank of Morocco. The discussion centered on the special relations existing between the two sister countries that are based on the close fraternal ties between the two monarchs, His Majesty King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, and His Majesty King Hassan II.

The prime minister and the Saudi minister of agriculture and water resources also reviewed bilateral cooperation in the field of agriculture and ways to bolster it, particularly in the projects linked to the national irrigation program in Morocco. The prime minister also highlighted the importance the Kingdom of Morocco attached to the agricultural sector, which is one of the priorities in the country's development policy in view of its vital role in the preservation of the country's economic and social balance.

Sudan

Government Forces Control 90 Percent of South

EA0604210594 Nairobi KNA in English 1830 GMT 5 Apr 94

[Text] Khartoum, 5 Apr (KNA/PANA)—The Sudanese Government controls 90 percent of the territory in the south where a civil war has raged for some years, Mahdi Ibrahim, the director of political affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has said.

Ibrahim disclosed this when he addressed a political forum in Omdurman Province.

He accused a rebel leader, John Garang, of fearing peace in the territory because he did not have any plans for its development.

'Dangerous Documents' Seized From Paper's Owner

NC0704103394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0945 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Khartoum, 7 Apr (MENA)—Sudan's President Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir has declared that the security agencies have seized dangerous documents from Mahjub 'Urwah, proprietor and chief editor of the AL-SUDAN AL-DUWALI newspaper, as he was returning from a foreign trip. In a statement published in the official newspaper AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH today, he said that these documents revealed the suspicious link between the owner of the newspaper and foreign intelligence circles hostile to Sudan.

Lt. Gen. al-Bashir pointed out that the competent agencies immediately began to examine the contents of the seized documents—contacts and correspondences with these foreign circles. He noted that these documents will be made known to the public through the various media organs. He said the information in these documents reveals the schemes and goals of the newspaper, which are hostile to Sudan and designed to destabilize the country.

The Presidential Office in Sudan released a statement on Sunday, according to which the AL-SUDAN AL-DUWALI newspaper published in Khartoum was closed. The statement noted that the paper's writers will be interrogated about their reports on corruption, bribery, nepotism, armed robberies, and price rises, which are considered to be an attempt to strike at the revolution and fragment the domestic front.

Iraqi Education Minister Visits, Meets Officials

Meets Counterpart

JN2903211794 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1928 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] Khartoum, 29 Mar (INA)—Ibrahim Ahmad 'Umar, Sudanese minister of education and scientific research, has saluted the Iraqi people's militant stand and high resolve under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn in confronting the forces of evil and aggression.

During a meeting with Dr. Humam 'Abd-al-Khaliq, Iraqi higher education and scientific research minister, here today, 'Umar added that both the aggression on Iraq and the continued blockade on its people are aimed at stopping scientific, technical, and military progress and obstructing Iraq's effective role in defending the Arab nation's interests.

'Umar reaffirmed that the Sudanese people stand alongside the Iraqi people in confronting and foiling the aggressive schemes and conspiracies concocted by the imperialist, colonialist, and Zionist circles.

The Iraqi minister appreciated the positions of Sudan's leadership and people alongside Iraq in the battle it is

waging against the imperialist-Zionist conspiracy. He asserted that the Iraqi people will not forget this stand despite the pressures and threats that Sudan is facing, which have not dissuaded Sudan from its genuine pan-Arab positions.

The two ministers discussed issues of joint cooperation in the field of higher education and scientific research in accordance with both the cultural agreement signed in 1974 and the subsequent executive programs. Talks also dealt with the possibility of reviewing the agreements signed between the Iraqi and Sudanese universities.

Discusses Exchanges

EA3003134094 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] Professor Ibrahim Ahmad 'Umar, minister of education and scientific research, met in his office today Dr. Humam 'Abd-al-Khaliq, the Iraqi minister of higher education, who is currently visiting the country.

The meeting dealt with the stages of the higher education revolution in Sudan which concerns increasing the intake of students and focusing on the transfer of higher education to the states [as heard] to achieve human development and fulfill the slogan of parallel development.

The meeting also reviewed cultural relations between the two countries and bilateral agreements between the universities. The two sides emphasized the importance of supporting these fields in order to enhance the results of the higher education experiment in the two brotherly countries. With regard to scholarships, the minister [unspecified] said that the exchange of further education opportunities heads his ministry's priorities. Furthermore, the two sides agreed to strengthen and develop existing relations between the two countries in the fields of scientific research, documentation, and higher education.

Received by Vice President

JN3103154294 Baghdad INA in English 1300 GMT 31 Mar 94

[Text] Khartoum, Mar. 31, INA—Sudanese First Vice-President al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih expressed his people and leadership's appreciation for Iraq's national stance under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn.

During a meeting with Iraqi Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research Dr. Humam 'Abd-al-Khaliq, General Salih said the people of Iraq who enjoyed high self-confidence and firm faith in Almighty God managed to reconstruct all that had been destroyed during the 30-state aggression and have confronted the blockade through depending on self-potentials.

The Sudanese vice-president stressed his country's adherence to its national and principled stances toward Iraq and the Arab nation.

The meeting, attended by Sudanese minister of education and scientific research, and the Iraqi ambassador in Khartoum, discussed means of expanding and developing cooperation and joint action between the two sisterly countries.

Minister Meets With Iraqi Construction Experts

EA3003201394 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1010 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 30 Mar (SUNA)—Yesterday, Minister of Transport 'Uthman 'Abd-al-Qadir 'Abd-al-Latif met with a delegation of Iraqi experts assigned to the sea ports corporation. The delegation briefed the minister on what steps have been taken in restoring and developing the loading ramp at Port Sudan harbor and the recommissioning of 22 cranes. [passage omitted]

Tunisia

Authorities Ban French Paper LIBERATION

BR0604135894 Paris LIBERATION in French 4 Apr 94 p 32

[Unattributed article: "LIBERATION Banned in Tunisia"]

[Text] Once again LIBERATION has been banned in Tunisia for an indefinite period. Tunisia's Agency for External Communications (ATCE) formally notified us yesterday of this without further details. Explanations were to be found in the previous day's issue of the government-controlled daily LA PRESSE. Under the headline "Tunisia's Dignity and Its People's Honor Foremost," the paper attacked, without quoting it, an article by a Tunisian intellectual that was published in LIBERATION's "Rebounds" section on 23 March. The article's author, who lives in exile in France, was expressing his reaction to the reelection of head of state Zine el Abidine Ben Ali with 99.92 percent of the votes. Condemning the absence of "a democratization process" in his country, he gave his support to the former president of the Tunisian Human Rights League, Moncef Marzouki, who had not been allowed to run in the presidential election.

Contrary to LA PRESSE's allegations, the Tunisian Government did not use its right of reply in LIBERATION, but prompted instead a representative of a "Confederation of Tunisian Associations in France" to submit two texts. LIBERATION was unable to publish these texts due to the personal nature of their attacks as well as a total lack of sound arguments. We need not remind readers that the "Rebounds" section is an opinion column reserved for outside contributors. In any case, our Tunisian readers were denied any opportunity to read the offending article, as

LIBERATION was not made available in Tunisia that day, as is the case every time the paper deals with that country's political situation.

The ban on LIBERATION is but the latest in a long series of measures against foreign media. The BBC correspondent for Tunisia was expelled in mid-February, and the offices of Kuwaiti agency KUNA were closed down temporarily. [French] newspapers LE MONDE and LE MONDE DIPLOMATIQUE as well as British daily THE GUARDIAN were banned in turn. Last week, the Tunisian authorities turned back the lawyer of "Reporters Without Frontiers, an international organization working to preserve the freedom of the press. As to Moncef Marzouki, whose candidacy had caused an uproar in Tunisia, he is currently in jail.

Yemen

YSP Said To Propose Egyptian Force To Disengage Troops

JN0604160694 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 2 Apr 94 pp 1, 4

[By 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Haydari and Faysal Makram from Sanaa, and Iqbal 'Ali 'Abdallah from Aden]

[Excerpt] Yesterday, the Yemeni crisis witnessed a series of developments indicating an escalation. Reliable sources in Sanaa have reported that Presidential Council Chairman Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih informed the Political Forces Dialogue Committee that the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] is floating a "new plan" that calls for the deployment of Egyptian troops between the northern Yemeni and southern Yemeni troops in the former border areas.

These sources added that 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih was informed of the new YSP plan by Egyptian Assistant Foreign Minister Ambassador Badr Hammam, who also met with YSP leaders in Aden, including 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee and vice chairman of the Presidential Council.

Sources close to the General People's Congress said that it was Yemeni Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas who relayed the "new plan" to the Egyptian mediator. The sources added that the Presidential Council chairman expressed his strong dissatisfaction with the new plan, noting that it was only promoted by a minority within the YSP higher command, the majority of which cherishes unity. President Salih noted that this plan would return the country to the situation that prevailed before the merger unity of 22 May 1990.

In a separate development, and in a meeting with members of the Political Forces Dialogue Committee, the Yemeni president has denied that his country is importing banned weapons, saying: "Regardless of the differences in perspective we might have, we must resort to dialogue. We should not undermine national constants. Our unity must remain intact. It is better for us to come to the negotiating table to reach understanding and find solutions to our problems and hurdles before the onset of any armed conflicts or violence. This is because the failure to do so would result in bloodshed, devastation, and ruination throughout the homeland." [passage omitted]

YSP Statement on Military Buildup by North Denied

NC0604210394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1620 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Sanaa, 6 Apr (MENA)—An official Yemeni source has denied a statement by an official at the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], led by 'Ali Salim al-Bid, about a north Yemeni military buildup on the former border regions between the north and the south of Yemen. The source said the YSP official's statement is not true and aims to cover up the military buildup and movements by the forces of the YSP in al-Dali' and Shabwah in the south.

The source warned against attempts by the YSP separatists, as he described them, to seriously escalate the military situation, dragging the country into a crushing civil war that could lead to separation and return the country to the situation it was in before 22 May 1990, the day unity was declared.

The Yemeni source said the YSP separatists are seeking military escalation to circumvent the Pledge and Accord document and hinder the implementation of the decisions made by the Council of Ministers in its latest meeting in Aden. The decisions provide for withdrawing troops from the former border regions.

The source denied reports that several countries offered proposals to solve the Yemeni crisis on the basis of federation or confederation. No Arab brother made such proposals. Indeed, they all stressed support for the Yemeni unity and its continuation, the source said.

The official Yemeni source stressed that the General People's Congress, led by President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, is eager for dialogue among the political forces as the only option and the best solution to protect unity, reach understanding on common denominators to build the Yemeni state, and entrench the course of unity.

The source denied reports that during the meeting in Salalah in Oman, President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih threatened to resort to war to solve the crisis. The source said these reports are false and are being promoted to cover up the YSP's unjustified military escalation and preparation for war.

Military Camp Forces Reportedly Shell Dhamar Area

JN0704062194 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] A responsible security source has stated the following: At about 2000 last night, Wednesday, 6 April 1994, very powerful explosions were heard throughout the city of Dhamar and its suburbs. Amid the roaring explosions, perhaps caused by the bullets and shells fired from various light, medium, and heavy weapons, the streets of the city and the surrounding villages became empty of pedestrians and citizens, who sought refuge in their homes. As a result, panic prevailed in the region. It was later discovered that the source of the explosions was the Ba-Suhayb camp, south of the city, and that forces in the camp arbitrarily fired shells toward the inhabited mountains and some government departments in Dhamar, including the Dhamar governorship, the governorate's security department, and other government offices.

The shelling also included the headquarters of the Central Security Forces and the Republican Guard, whose personnel maintained complete calm and self- restraint to avoid any escalation.

When, after more than an hour, the powerful explosions and firing of bullets stopped, and in light of the contacts and investigations that were held by competent authorities in the govenorate, it was revealed that guards at the camp's gate had been arbitrarily fired at by an unidentified speeding red sedan. None of the guards was injured. Immediately, the camp's troops mobilized their armored vehicles, various types of machine guns, and a tanks battalion, which assumed an offensive posture. Then, the region was set alight when the troops fired hundreds of shells, as explained above.

The security source added: According to all the available information and contacts that have been held by competent authorities there was no acceptable justification for such an irresponsible act by the Ba-Suhayb troops.

The source added: We warn against the gravity of that act which aims at disturbing the national security, stability, and social and political safety. We warn against the gravity of committing such provocations. We demand that the joint military committee expeditiously investigates all the circumstances of this incident and informs the people of the entire truth. God testifies to our true intentions.

Further on Shelling

NC0704114894 Paris AFP in English 1102 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Sanaa, April 7 (AFP)—Southern troops based in northern Yemen bombarded the town of Dhamar, raining hundreds of rockets on official buildings in an hour-long raid, police said Thursday [7 April].

There were no reports on the number of casualties or the damage caused during the attack late Wednesday by a battalion of southern troops from Basahib, based south of Dhamar, 100 kilometres (62 miles) south of Sanaa.

Police said the bombardment followed an attack on guards outside the Basahib camp when unidentified gunmen opened fire from their car, without wounding anyone.

A police statement sent to AFP said the mortars had been fired at several districts housing official buildings, the national guard headquarters and the police station.

Northern troops did not return fire, the statement added.

The north and south armies have not been merged since former North and South Yemen were united in May 1990.

A crisis broke out eight months ago when Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid, a southerner, refused to take up his duties in the capital Sanaa in the north, citing security fears and demanding major political and economic reform.

Clashes between the rival armies have continued despite a reconciliation accord signed in Amman on February 20.

In Sanaa a member of President 'Ali 'Abdallah 'Salih's General People's Congress blamed leaders of al-Bid's Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) for the attack saying they "were trying to lead the country into war."

A YSP leader confirmed to AFP that the attack had taken place adding it had been provoked "by northern forces."

Al-Bid called on his northern rival Salih on Sunday to withdraw all northern troops based in the centre of the country, while in turn all southern troops in northern Yemen would pull back to the south.

The two men were meeting for the first time since the signing of the Amman accord in Salalah in Oman. But their talks concluded without any sign of ending the crisis which is threatening to tear the country apart.

A member of the presidential council, 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al- Ghani, told AFP that al-Bid's proposal for a redeployment of troops would end up destroying unity.

He added "noone here wants war," saying the only way forward was to continue dialogue with southern "opponents."

About 300,000 northern and southern troops are stationed in the southern regions of Abanye and Shabwah to monitor the Yemeni oil fields.

Although Yemen is only a small producer of about 340,000 barrels a day, control of the natural resource is essential to ensure the survival of the government in the north or any future creation of a southern breakaway rival.

YSP Official Said Killed in Ta'izz Governorate

JN0604125994 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] sources announced today that Ahmad Khalid Sayf, the secretary of the YSP branch in al-Najdah region in the Ta'izz Governorate was killed there, where the Yemeni Government is scheduled to convene today. The deceased's body, according to the sources, was found last Monday [4 April] evening close to the general reserve camp. Eyewitnesses report that Sayf was shot by unknown gunmen, who fled the scene in a getaway car.

Foreign Minister Leaves for Iran, India

JN0704055394 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Brother Muhammad Salim Basindwah left Sanaa for Iran this evening at the head of a Foreign Ministry delegation on an official visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran, and from there he will leave for India on a similar visit of several days. [passage omitted]

Regime Reportedly Pays Agents To Kill Foreigners

NC0604152994 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Iraqi opposition sources in the north of the homeland have accused elements among the Iraqi agents of killing German journalist Lissy Schmidt, who worked for AFP and several German newspapers. The source said that Saddam's bloody regime promised its agents a reward of $10,000 for killing a foreigner in north Iraq and that Schmidt is a victim of this criminal campaign. The spokesman affirmed that Saddam makes light of the UN resolutions, particularly Security Council Resolution 687, which stipulates that halting terrorism is one of the conditions for lifting the international sanctions imposed on Iraq because of Saddam's indiscriminate policy. These sources added that unknown gunmen killed Schmidt and her Kurdish companion, 'Aziz Qadir, at noon the day before yesterday when they were travelling to a village in al-Sulaymaniyah Governorate to report on the arrival of humanitarian aid to the region.

Statement Issued on Ba'th Party's 47th Anniversary

JN0604161594 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1415 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Apr (INA)—The National Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party has emphasized that Iraq—with its civilized depth, distinguished pan-Arab role in the past and present, liberation achievements, and delicate Arab awareness, as well as the courage of its Ba'thist vanguard and the ingenuity of its leader comrade struggler Saddam Husayn—has, under the Ba'th Party's banner, renewed its position as a center of strength and a preventive shield for the Arab nation.

In a statement on the 47th anniversary of founding the Ba'th Party, which will be marked tomorrow, the National Command said that the responsibility for safeguarding understanding and promoting the militant state to the highest level requires the masses' ranks to be equipped with militant thinking and a new awareness of both the nation's battle and its historic depth and civilized essence.

The National Command explained that the Arab nation's forces can foil the schemes of fragmentation and internationalization of domestic problems, and can also mobilize the nation's resources to lift the embargo on Iraq.

The National Command also stressed that the jihad in the Mother of Battles was a slogan for adhering to principles and insisting on entrenching basic values through liberating the people and moving international relations to a new level free from the spirit of trusteeship and the domination of world colonialism. It called on Arab parties, political organizations, trade unions, intellectuals, and literary and artistic people as well as all parts of nation's body to wage the battle of fateful civilized conflict by maintaining the spirit of resistance shown in both the Mother of Battles and the intifadah.

ALF Marks 25th Anniversary With Speech Rally

JN0604203894 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1945 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Apr (INA)—The Arab Liberation Front [ALF] this evening held a speech rally to mark its 25th founding anniversary, which coincides with the the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party [ASBP] anniversary.

Sa'di Mahdi Salih, member of the Iraq Command of the ASBP delivered a speech at the function, also attended by 'Abd-al-Majid al-Rafi'i and Badr al-Din Muddathir, members of the National Command of the ASBP. Salih first communicated greetings from His Excellency President Saddam Husayn to the people of the intifadah in Palestine. He emphasized that the party leadership is absolutely confident of complete victory, notwithstanding the unsavory character of certain incumbent Arab politicians and leaders.

The Mother of Battles agenda has forced the Zionist-American tyrants to expose all the agent puppets, leaving none of the agents in the ranks of the Arab nation capable of concealing their treasonous connections.

Salih was followed by 'Azzam al-Ahmad, the state of Palestine's ambassador in Baghdad. 'Azzam said that, led by Saddam Husayn, Iraq is bound to bring its ambitions to fruition, since they are those of the Arab nation. He said he was certain Iraq will ride out the sanctions crisis and mount a successful challenge to all types of aggression, and, in the end, emerge the victor.

The Zionist enemy, he went on, is working to liquidate the Palestinian cause and extinguish the freedom of the Palestinian people to pursue their advancement and independence.

The next speech was delivered on behalf of the professional and popular Palestinian organizations, which voiced their appreciation and recognition of the support they have been receiving from President Saddam Husayn in pursuing their programs in Iraq.

Mr. Anwar Daklas, president of the General Union of Palestinian Engineers said: We have learned from President Saddam Husayn's Iraq all the militant values that will help us attain our liberation and advancement.

Mr. Abu-Mahmud, deputy secretary general of the ALF delivered a speech in which he stressed that over the past 25 years, the front has fought all the battles in which the national existence and legitimacy of the Palestinian people were at stake and stood up to the Zionist and anti-Arab enemies.

He called for severing all forms of contacts pursuing a settlement with the enemy and quitting the policy of making free concessions. He also urged that all forms of struggle, armed struggle in particular, be intensified

against occupation and that all resources be mobilized to refine the valiant popular intifadah.

Executed Money Changer Reportedly Related to Saddam

JN0604164994 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 3 Apr 94 p 1

[Text] London—'Abbas 'Abd 'Awn, an important money changer, who was executed in Baghdad last Sunday, was reportedly related to President Saddam Husayn. Iraqi opposition sources told AL-HAYAH in London yesterday 'Awn "worked for an operation run by Saddam's sons 'Udayy and Qusayy, which traded in hard currency in Baghdad and elsewhere in Iraq, including the Kurdish-controlled north."

The Associated Press reported that Arab sources yesterday cited Iraqi officials as saying that 'Abbas 'Awn was convicted of dealing with "hostile external powers" bent on undermining the Iraqi dinar.

Travelers confirm the news of the execution. 'Awn had been apprehended on 3 January, 1994, but was then released.

According to the same sources, 'Abbas 'Awn was executed by firing squad, along with his brother-in-law, Qasim Qaqiyah, and others.

Sources of the "United National Iraqi Opposition" told AL-HAYAH the day before yesterday that 'Awn was bankrolling Iraq's military industries. Also executed with him were Majid Hulw, Qasim 'Abd-al-Karim Hasan, and his chaufeur.

PUK's Talabani Leaves for Syria, Other Countries

NC0604181594 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1605 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Brother Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, left Kurdistan for Syria on Monday. After completing his visit to Syria, he will go on a tour that will take him to Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Britain, France, Germany, and Japan. [passage omitted]

Talabani Comments on Iraqi 'Threats' Against Kurdistan

NC0604190694 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1620 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Excerpts] In a press interview before leaving for Syria, brother Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], said: [passage omitted] I will visit Syria first before going on to Europe, Egypt, and possibly Saudi Arabia. [passage omitted]

The main aim of my tour is to strengthen and consolidate Kurdish political activity abroad, explain conditions in Kurdistan, and request aid to rebuild Kurdish society. We will also demand that the blockade imposed on Kurdistan be lifted, that a solution be found for our problems, and that the necessary protection be afforded to Kurdistan. We will ask the United States and Europe to help us with weapons and training so that we can form our own main protection force in the Kurdistan region. We will also ask them to help us build a modern police force capable of safeguarding security and stability in Kurdistan. We will ask them to continue their aerial protection on a permanent basis. With these three methods, we can provide the necessary protection for Iraqi Kurdistan. We will also try to increase the humanitarian aid for the Kurdistan region's people and explain the situation in Kurdistan. [passage omitted]

On the Iraqi regime's threats to launch an offensive against liberated Iraqi Kurdistan, especially following the renewal of the UN sanctions on Baghdad, brother Talabani said: I believe the ruling dictatorial, fascist regime in Baghdad is serious in its threats. The attempt to attack the Kurdistan region is one of the dreams of the dictatorial regime. But we have seen the miscalculations of the head of the defeated Iraqi regime, such as his war against Iran and his occupation of Kuwait. He also made many mistakes during his war against Kurdistan. I believe his mistakes this time will be added to his previous mistakes. I believe the regime is serious in its threats but I am not afraid of these threats. If the regime embarks on such a desperate attempt, it will help us to liberate the remaining parts of occupied Kurdistan. The regime will meet its doom, because the Kurdistan people are prepared for sacrifice. The peshmerga forces in Kurdistan are prepared to confront the enemies. The international coalition forces will deal a deadly blow to the dictatorial regime's force. If the regime's forces come under air strikes, they will suffer utter defeat, not only in Kurdistan, but elsewhere in Iraq. [passage omitted]

Peres, Sarid, Palestinians React to 'Afula Attack

TA0604150394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Here is an initial Palestinian reaction to the attack in 'Afula: Nasri Yusuf, head of the Palestinian military delegation to the Cairo talks, told our correspondent in Cairo Arye Gus that the fact that acts of violence continue is very saddening. He added that the Palestinians do not support such acts, and make every effort to put end to violence in the region. The remarks were made after the Palestinian military delegation held a meeting with Yasir 'Arafat in Cairo.

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has said that no one can guarantee that the attack in 'Afula will be the last. At the same time, every effort will be made to cut off the arms of the murderers and harm the terror organization which aspires to murder all that is good in the Middle East. Minister Peres further said that grave incidents had been expected, but the attack in 'Afula was graver than could be expected. He added that the government will make security-related decisions, and rejected the opposition parties' demand that a commission of inquiry be set up to investigate the incident. Such murders took place when the Likud was in power, and even before the peace talks started, Peres said.

[In a live telephone interview on Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1400 GMT on 6 April, Foreign Minister Peres says: "I do not believe that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] asks or needs 'Arafat's permission to carry out such attacks. For the time being, 'Arafat is not on the ground here. When he enters the region, we will examine his conduct in the region under his jurisdiction." Asked about the opposition demand to suspend the negotiations with the PLO in the wake of the attack, he said: "I see no connection between the two issues."]

Minister Yosi Sarid said that the circumstances of the attack in 'Afula will be thoroughly studied. He rejected the demands that the peace talks be suspended claiming that the terrorists should not be given a prize for their acts. At the same time, he said, we must fight terrorism to the end.

Deputy Agriculture Minister Walid Sadiq condemned the grave attack in 'Afula, and called for restraint. Deputy Health Minister Nayif Musaliha said that the terrorists intend to murder the peace process and the relations between Jews and Arabs in Israel.

Knesset Member [MK] Yosi Katz, deputy chairman of the Labor faction, said that the bloody attack proves that the government must go on with the peace process, and not be deterred by attempts by extremists to torpedo it.

Meretz faction Chairman Ran Kohen called on the prime minister and the PLO head not to retreat, and to speed up the exit of Israelis from the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality] faction Chairman Tawfiq Zayyad condemned the attack, saying that it poisons the atmosphere and harms the political process.

The National Religious Party said that the 'Afula attack is the outcome of the Rabin government's policy of groveling.

Moledet said that the 'Afula massacre is an indication of what is to happen once the recipe for peace, prepared by the government and the PLO, is implemented.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that MK Ravitz of the United Torah Jewry demanded that the prime minister set up a state commission of inquiry to examine the events that led to the attack in 'Afula.

Likud MK 'Ovadya Eli, who used to be 'Afula mayor, demanded that peace talks be stopped at once, and that their continuation be made conditional on a Palestinian commitment to prevent additional acts of terror from taking place.

'Arafat Silence on 'Afula Said Grounds for Halting Talks

TA0704061194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Minister Shim'on Shetrit will propose that the government suspend the negotiations with the PLO until Yasir 'Arafat condemns the terrorist attack in 'Afula. Shetrit expressed the belief that all the cabinet ministers will support his proposal. The minister said that not only has 'Arafat failed to condemn the terrorist attack of his own volition but also avoided replying to a question on the matter yesterday in Cairo.

Shetrit explained that by his actions, 'Arafat is giving cause to doubt the sincerity of his intention to fulfill his commitments to Israel. Shetrit said that Prime Minister Rabin and Foreign Minister Peres will find the appropriate time and place to comment on 'Arafat's behavior.

Know-How of Former Deportees Believed Used in 'Afula

TA0704084594 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 7 Apr 94 p A1

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[Text] Security sources said yesterday that the booby-trapped car that blew up in 'Afula was assembled by experts. They believe the terrorist who was killed in the blast did not assemble the car bomb but was merely a suicide driver.

The sources added that this type of booby-trapped car is used by Hizballah. Therefore, it may very well be that the gang that assembled the bomb used the know-how acquired by the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists who were deported to Lebanon in December

1992 and who returned to the territories a few months ago. The sources pointed out that the deportees, who spent a year at the Marj al-Zuhur encampment, were trained in the preparation of bombs and booby-trapped cars by Hizballah experts and Iranian elements.

'Terrorist' Killed After Opening Fire in Ashdod

TA0704062894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] It has just been reported that a short while ago, a terrorist opened fire at several persons standing at the Ashdod Junction. Two people were wounded. One of the bystanders shot and killed the terrorist. Police forces and emergency medical teams rushed to the scene, and the wounded are currently receiving treatment. This was reported by our correspondents Yehudit Yehezqeli and Aviv Bushinsky.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0616 GMT on 7 April adds: "Initial reports received by the defense establishment indicate that four people were apparently slightly wounded and are being treated at the scene" and that "additional terrorists may have been involved in the incident."]

Update on 'Terrorist' Attack

TA0704065294 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0630 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Here is an updated report on the terrorist attack at the Ashdod Junction: At least four Israelis were wounded in this attack. Two people were seriously wounded, while another two sustained moderate injuries. The wounded were taken to Rehovot's Kaplan Hospital where the hospital director later told us that one of the casualties had died of his wounds. The nationality of the dead man remains unknown.

One of the terrorists was killed, but his accomplice or accomplices managed to escape. According to the reports, the terrorists fired from a bus or car at people standing at a hitchhiking stop at the Ashdod Junction. The dead terrorist was killed by bystanders who shot at him from the junction.

Further Incidents in Territories Reported

TA0704055994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] An Israeli resident of the Qatif Bloc was stabbed and slightly wounded this morning by a terrorist near the Kissufim checkpoint in the Gaza Strip. He is currently being evacuated to a hospital in Beersheba.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the Israeli came to the checkpoint to pick up workers. On his way back to the Qatif Bloc, he was stabbed in the chest and shoulder by one of the workers. The terrorist dropped the knife and fled. Other workers called soldiers from the checkpoint who found the wounded man in his car. The security forces have launched a manhunt after the assailant.

In another incident, an Israeli citizen was injured in Qalqilyah when his car was pelted with stones. He lost control of the vehicle, which overturned. The man sustained moderate injuries and was taken to a hospital in Kefar Sava.

The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] tightened the closure on the territories this morning and increased security at its checkpoints, especially in Samaria. Soldiers are conducting very thorough inspections and hardly any Samaria Arabs are being permitted to enter the Green Line.

Total Closure Imposed on Territories After Attacks

TA0704092794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Excerpt] A total closure will be imposed on the territories from 1700 [1400 GMT] this afternoon, following the recent spate of terrorist attacks. Our correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that from that hour onwards, Arabs from the territories will not be permitted to enter the Green Line.

This morning, the chief of staff said it is impossible to completely prevent terrorist attacks in retaliation for the Hebron massacre. He praised the soldiers at the Ashdod Junction for showing initiative by shooting and killing the terrorist.

The prime minister will convene the Ministerial Committee on Security Affairs for a special session tomorrow in order to discuss the deterioration in the security situation and decide on the necessary steps.

The leaders of the opposition factions are meeting at Likud headquarters in Tel Aviv this afternoon to discuss the situation. They will demand the establishment of a commission of inquiry into the wave of terrorist attacks and a halt to the negotiations with the PLO. Tzomet leader Refa'el Eytan called on the government to resign and call new elections. [passage omitted]

'Terrorist' Stabs, Slightly Wounds Israeli

TA0704102494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] An Israeli was stabbed and slightly wounded by a terrorist approximately 30 minutes ago in the industrial zone at the Erez checkpoint in the Gaza Strip. Soldiers and civilians shot and apparently wounded the assailant. The security forces are now conducting a manhunt to catch the terrorist.

Five Arabs Shot by IDF; Israeli Jailed for Shooting

TA0504193994

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1900 GMT on 5 April reports that "four Arabs were shot and wounded tonight by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] in the village of Bayt Immar near Hebron. One of the casualties sustained serious injuries and was transferred to Hadassah-'En Kerem Hospital. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that there were many stone-throwing incidents this evening against Israeli cars making their way to Hebron. The IDF beefed up its presence in those areas, but most of the vehicles were stoned and damaged.

"A resident of the village of Luban al-Sharqiyah in Samaria was shot by soldiers in a stone-throwing incident."

Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0800 GMT on 5 April reports that "Hayim Danino, a Jerusalem truck driver, was sentenced to four years in prison for fatally shooting an Arab resident of Ra's al-'Amud after being stoned. The Jerusalem District Court also ordered Danino to pay 30,000 shekels in damages to the family of the victim, 68-year-old Jum'a 'Abd-al-'Aziz Mishaq."

Palestinians Absent From Police Facility Ceremony

TA0604102094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] The PLO representative in the Gaza Strip failed to arrive at the ceremony in which the Gaza police facility was to be handed over to the Palestinians. This was reported by our Army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe.

One of the PLO leaders in the Strip told our correspondent that the Palestinians did not come to receive the keys to the police hostel because there were still unresolved disagreements in the Cairo talks on police matters.

Reservists Receive Orders for Duty in Hebron

TA0704082494 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 7 Apr 94 p 1

[Report by On Levi]

[Text] Thousands of IDF [Israel Defense Forces] reservists have recently been issued special call-up orders to reinforce the Army's presence in Hebron and to replace some of the regular Army units that have been stationed inside and around the town since the massacre at the Cave of the Patriarchs over one month ago.

The commanders of these units have been receiving dozens of requests from soldiers asking to be released from reserve duty because of personal or business-related problems. Yesterday, IDF sources explained that were it possible, they would have been glad to do without the service of these soldiers, and promised that these soldiers will be the first of those in the field to be released from duty.

The call-up orders were issued without giving the soldiers the required advance notice. They were based on a special authorization issued by Major General Yoram Ya'ir, head of the IDF Manpower Branch, in light of the situation. According to senior military sources, "the situation made the call-up of reserve soldiers necessary. We cannot freeze the education and training of the regular soldiers for long periods. The detrimental effect this has had on the regular soldiers is already untenable." The sources added that employing the reservists will involve thousands of reserve duty days and constitute a difficult burden for the reserve soldiers.

Over the past few weeks, reservists from the Artillery and Infantry Corps have received thousands of call-up orders for special operational activity in the territories. The call-up orders were issued without the customary 44-day advance notice. At this stage, call-up orders have been sent to reservists who were not supposed to serve in the territories in the current workyear. The units called up for special reserve duty have done long periods of reserve duty in the territories over the past two years, and the IDF had originally intended to refrain from using these units this year.

The call-up orders were sent to the soldiers several weeks ago, in the wake of a situation analysis conducted by the General Staff's Operations Department. The commanders of the reserve units met with Maj. Gen. Yoram Ya'ir over the past few days to protest the decision to break the promises made earlier to their soldiers.

Reservists' Letter Cautions Rabin Against PLO Accord

TA0404113394 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 4 Apr 94 p 7

[Report by Tzvi Singer]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Some 500 IDF [Israel Defense Forces] reserve officers, most of whom are still on active reserve duty, yesterday sent the prime minister a petition, declaring: "Eretz Yisra'el belongs to the Jewish people, and you have no right to give it away to strangers! 'Arafat is no better than a war criminal! Terror must not be rewarded!"

The reserve officers—ranking from lieutenant to brigadier general—signed a petition initiated by Aharay [Follow Me], a reserve officers movement opposing the agreement with the PLO. Among the signatories are Reserve Brigadier Generals Amatzya Hen and David Hago'el.

The letter further states: "All our lives, we fought for our homeland, we went to battle, guarded the border, and lost friends while defending our homeland. By giving away parts of the homeland to the murderers of women

and children and shaking hands that are covered in blood, you are telling us that our war was in vain. Our comrades fell in vain, and the battle order was a mistake, because it could have been solved by surrender and concessions to the aggressor and the murderer.

"We are opposed to this terrible move, which leads to complete surrender, to an indefensible country, and the loss of all moral values, as well as the loss of our capital of Jerusalem the streets of which are already decorated with PLO flags," the reserve officers write.

Commentary Views Water Shortage Problem

TA3003124094 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (MAMON supplement) in Hebrew 30 Mar 94 p 5

[Commentary by Sever Plotzker: "There Will No War Over Water"]

[Text] Once again they threaten us with war over the Middle East water. This time the threats are made by entrepreneurs who wish to set up a project for desalinizing water in Israel. According to them, the project would cost some $3 billion, and apparently not less than $5 billion.

The project may well be very profitable, but please, stop scaring us by saying that a water shortage would lead to war. Economists are not familiar with the term shortage separated from the notion of price. Shortage, they say, is always relative—it is related to the price of the commodity in question. For example, when the price of gold was $12 an ounce, there was a terrible shortage of it on the world markets. At $660 an ounce, there was an enormous oversupply. Eventually, the forces of the market created a balance.

The same holds true for any commodity: gold, water, or oil. The oil lesson is the most studied and the most outstanding example. In the spring of 1981, an oil barrel went for $60 (in 1994 prices) on the free market. Since then, the price of oil dropped by 75 percent. Today you can buy a barrel for $14. What happened?

The high prices of oil led to worldwide searches for it, from the North Sea to the China Sea, not to mention the oil drills on the Tel Aviv stock exchange. Worldwide proven oil reserves have doubled (!) despite pumping and consumption.

The high prices motivated oil consumers and energy producers to save by any possible means. Energy conservation was discovered as a new source of wealth for the nations.

New free markets of all types of oil were created. OPEC, the oil producers cartel, began losing its power. Oil-producing countries started cheating, producing and selling more than they had agreed to. They discovered the appealing charm of the free market, where you are king if you sell your oil at $.001 less than the agreed-upon price.

And we have not yet mentioned the secret oil treasures of Russia, the Ukraine, Azerbaijan, and Kazakhstan, only a little of which has been uncovered.

The case of the oil shortage is important for us to understand that there is no such thing as "water shortage," just as there never was an oil shortage. Furthermore, unlike oil, water can be recycled.

The real economic question, therefore, is whether it would be possible in the future to supply most of the amount of water in demand while maintaining a "reasonable" price—that is, a price that would not cause entire production fields to collapse, would preserve a good public health system, and would not financially devastate the poor water consumers. The answer to all of the above is positive.

Water conservation in our region has enormous potential. Just by preventing waste, promoting efficient use, and improving water pipes, we could reduce all types of water consumption by 30-40 percent without seriously harming anything.

Water desalination could prove very profitable. Desalination techniques are constantly improving and production costs keep falling; hence, water prices will constantly drop. Small- and medium-size desalination plants are profitable already at this time.

Consumption of purified water—which is cheap and has almost unlimited sources—is expected to rise. Here too, technologies constantly improve.

There will be no "war over water" in the Middle East, and peace between us and our neighbors will not rise or fall over the water issue, which is economic and technical.

The problem of water shortage will be solved if it is dealt with by economic experts and engineers, and not by politicians and lobbyists.

U.S. Navy 'Siege' on Jordanian TV Crew Reported

JN0604145694 Amman AL-BILAD in Arabic 6 Apr 94 p 1

["Exclusive report"]

[Text] The U.S. Navy stationed at the entrance of the Gulf of Aqaba in the Straits of Tiran is not satisfied with just the siege, the inspections, and the scaring away of ships. Indeed, the issue has reached the point of laying siege to a Jordan Television [JTV] crew that was trying to film the ships that have been intercepted without encroaching on the security measures required by the Americans.

AL-BILAD's information has confirmed that more than one military boat circled the JTV crew and seized their cameras. It was not until a final intervention that the television crew, their cameras, and the rest of their equipment were released.

Official Jordanian sources kept the report a secret. However, other reliable sources told AL-BILAD that the case is not over and that upon the request of the Information Ministry, the Foreign Ministry took quick measures that could lead to more tension in the relations between Washington and Amman.

This tension was clear in His Majesty King Husayn's statements the week before last when he said that Jordan will not go to the negotiations unless the Americans and their allies find a suitable solution to the inspection operations, which have taken a serious course that encroaches on Jordanian sovereignty.

Intent To Host Clinton, Rabin at Conference Denied

JN0604151794 Amman AL-BILAD in Arabic 6 Apr 94 p 4

[Text] In an exclusive statement to AL-BILAD, Information Minister Dr. Jawad al-'Anani has denied reports that Amman will host Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and U.S. President Bill Clinton within the context of an international investors conference allegedly scheduled to be held before the end of this year.

Al-'Anani added that Shim'on Peres proposed the convening of this conference under the pretext of reinvigorating the Jordanian economy. He went on to say: Peres should have realized that Jordan would not agree to host such a conference before the peace process comes to a successful conclusion.

Our interlocutor asserted that many ideas are being raised on the international scene. We have also heard about joint projects. Israel seems to want to conduct feasibility studies on such projects, he said.

Al-'Anani added: We will hear many things. There are various ideas being floated. However, those who learn of them should not take them seriously.

When asked whether he is optimistic or pessimistic over the prospects of the current negotiations, al-'Anani said: As a former negotiator, I do have a certain objective; namely, the restoration of our rights in full, as enshrined in the relevant UN resolutions.

Al-'Anani added: The key to the negotiations is not in the hands of any single party. It is in the hands of many parties. Given the current circumstances, and the current Arab divisions, we in Jordan cannot control the course of the negotiations.

We asked al-'Anani why Jordan suddenly adopted a tough position toward the siege of al-'Aqabah. He answered us, saying: Jordan did not express its anger over the al-'Aqabah siege only last week. It has been expressing its anger for a long time. However, Jordan's expression of this anger has become stronger than ever before in the aftermath of the recent ship search incident, in which UN troops and U.S. battleships hastened to inspect a German cargo ship carrying goods bound for Jordan and other countries. In this incident, the U.S. battleships inspected the goods imported for Jordan and other countries twice. Nonetheless, the ship was prevented from unloading its cargo in Jordan. The ship left for the Suez Canal, where it unloaded its Jordanian cargo.

We asked al-'Anani about statements made by former information ministers regarding the need to disband the Ministry of Information, contending that its existence is no longer justified, al-'Anani said: I believe that the media must have an official agency to supervise them, be it a ministry or another state agency. I think that the Ministry of Information is the best agency to provide such supervision.

When pressed further about the rationale for the existence of the Ministry of Information, al-'Anani said: Honestly, I do not insist on the existence of the Ministry of Information to supervise the media in Jordan. Another agency other than the Ministry of Information could be created to supervise the Jordanian media.

We asked him the following question: We believe that the official media has failed to express Jordan's policy. What do you have to say on this?

Al-'Anani said: I believe that the official media is experiencing problems. We need the convocation of a media conference to discuss the multifaceted problems facing the press. It goes without saying that a diversity of views is required. I am a true believer in the statement made by His Majesty King Husayn that we need a state media, rather than a government media.

Hasan Addresses Meeting on Jerusalem

JN0704085594 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 7-8 Apr 94 pp 1, 5

[Text] Amman—(Petra)—His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan on Wednesday called on Muslim and Christian scholars to promote the scope of Christian-Muslim dialogue and to highlight Islam's position vis-a-vis Jerusalem.

Addressing a three-day meeting on Jerusalem which ended at the King 'Abdallah Mosque Wednesday, Prince Hasan said scholars also had the duty to clarify Islam's positive relations with the Christians throughout the ages.

The meeting coincided with preparations by some people (in the west) to observe the 3,000th year of "founding" Jerusalem, Prince Hasan said.

"We have to discuss and prove by science and research that Jerusalem existed before David and after him," the Crown Prince said. "We do not talk about this in mere rhetorics or in an emotional manner. We seek to remind the world of the historic eras which are linked together starting from the Cannanites and the other Arabs," the Crown Prince said in an address to the 40 scholars gathered at Basman Palace.

"I wanted to talk to you today about what we can call divine sovereignty over Jerusalem that does not conflict with political sovereignty. I would like to point out that divine sovereignty derives its dignity and esteem from its value and from the morals of the faithful who believe in it," Prince Hasan said. "In this context, we can only express pride in the Al al-Bayt University, which is due to embark on the experiment of setting up an institute for Christian studies," he noted.

"We hope this institute, (the first of its kind in the region), would yield good results because we believe that the time has come for the world to realise that this nation has always been oriented towards promoting culture," the Crown Prince said.

Addressing the delegates, Prince Hasan said: "You have to enhance the concept of the holiness of the city of Jerusalem and promote dialogue among the religions and reaffirm the status of the Holy City for the Christians and Muslims.

"We are facing a historic moment entitled 'survival of the more competent' in expression and best in presenting reason in dialogue. I believe that the media in particular have a role to play but without much rhetorics and excessive emotions.

"We have to conduct a dialogue that caters to the spirit of the modern age and we have to be aware of our rights and highlight them.

"Our dialogue could be emotional, but it should have reason and responsibility, especially as we mourn our martyrs who fell in the Hebron massacre. We have to direct our reason and dialogue in a true and scientific manner away from selfishness and we should not allow weakness to be the sole method of expression because this would lead to counter-violence devoid of reason.

"Through your courage and wisdom you can encourage people to resort to reason and positive thinking and can enhance the spirit of wisdom as we strive to remind the world of the greatness of Islam and the greatness of the Arab Muslim Christian project. Remember that Jerusalem is in need of your efforts under the current difficult circumstances."

Several speakers among the delegates addressed the meeting, focusing on the importance of Christian-Islamic dialogue.

Field Marshal 'Abd al-Rahman Siwar al-Dhahab of Sudan paid tribute to His Majesty King Husayn's devotion and dedication to safeguarding the holy places in Jerusalem.

He noted that the King sold part of his personal property in order to finance the restoration of the holy sites in Jerusalem.

The scholars who took part in the three-day meeting, organised by the general Islamic Congress for Jerusalem, issued a statement at the end of their conference denouncing American policies for their disregard of the international resolutions regarding Jerusalem.

The statement condemned American policies, which "express Zionism's ambitions and intentions to seize the Holy City and make it the united capital of Israel."

The statement also rejected the American stand vis-a-vis the Hebron massacre and Washington's "opposition to a resolution that would have condemned Israel's terrorism."

It deplored Washington's retreat from the U.N. Security Council resolution that considered Jerusalem as part of the occupied territories and not a disputed land.

The statement called on the Arab and Islamic countries to unify their rank and adopt a collective position with regard to "the issues of destiny, foremost of which the issue of Jerusalem."

It called on the Arabs and Muslims to "defend Arab and islamic rights in the face of Zionism's expansionist and aggressive plots."

The statement urged Muslims and Christians to "promote their dialogue, encourage tolerance and solidarity among the faithful and set up a special fund for the reconstruction of Jerusalem."

Sources Report 'Jordanian Afghans' in Africa

JN0604143194 Amman AL-BILAD in Arabic 6 Apr 94 p 2

[Text] According to well-informed sources, who spoke to AL-BILAD, the existence of "Jordanian Afghans," cannot be ruled out. But there are only a handful of them. They fled Afghanistan to Kenya among a group of other Arabs who have recently sought refuge in Africa.

Led by Ayman al-Zawahiri, an Egyptian medical doctor, this group is seeking entry into southern Sudan from Kenya. Al-Zawahiri has been to Nairobi a number of times in an effort to find a place for Arabs forced to leave Pakistan. Khartoum has balked at accepting them.

Over the past three months, there has been a mass exodus of "Arab Afghans" who have taken Pakistan's threats to expel them seriously.

Ministry Planning To Replace Non-Jordanian Workers

JN0204091294 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 02 Apr 94 p 3

[Text] Aqaba (Petra)—Labour Minister Khalid al-Ghizawi Friday [April 1] said the ministry is planning to replace non-Jordanians working in the fields of medicine, engineering, administration and clerical fields, accounting and driving with Jordanian job seekers. In an interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Mr. al-Ghizawi said this step is aimed at organising the local labour market, a measure which is essential in the battle against unemployment, the minister added. The ministry's decision was made after the completion of a study of the labour market which aimed at identifying characteristics of job-seekers. The minister said that the ministry is making great efforts to encourage Jordanians to work in the agriculture sector, where the presence of a non-Jordanian labour force is prominent. He added that because of the low participation of Jordanians in this sector, the ministry will continue to depend on non-Jordanian labour.

Amman Land Day 'Quarreling by Chair' Criticized

JN0204122994 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 2 Apr 94 p 2

["An Issue and Opinion" column by Salamah 'Ukur: "The Fight With Chairs Is a Serious Sign"]

[Text] The regrettable fight with chairs that erupted Wednesday [30 March] between Fatah and Hamas supporters during a Land Day rally at the professional unions' complex was another sign that these political forces will not hesitate, if necessary, to turn Jordan into an arena for conflict and the settling of accounts.

We were not surprised by the dialogue, which involved the use of chairs, at this complex. The winds of democracy have not yet reached the ranks and the organization of these political forces. Democratic dialogue is lacking among them. Likewise, we will not be surprised by fresh dialogues using other tools, including, perhaps, bullets, exactly like what has frequently happened in the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank, and also similar to what happened earlier in Lebanon.

We frequently cautioned against the infiltration by external forces and organizations into our official, popular, and trade union institutions. These forces would pursue activities that have nothing to do with the Jordanian people's issues, problems, and concerns. Moreover, the rallies and interests of these forces have no room for Jordanian national occasions.

We also frequently cautioned against turning Jordan into a hotbed of tension or a heated arena for conflicts and battles among non-Jordanian organizations and forces which are not interested in safeguarding this country's security and stability. We are very afraid that the phenomenon of quarreling by chair will escalate and become a fiercer fight using more dangerous tools.

We are also very afraid that Fatah, which is now preparing to assume the self-rule authority in Gaza and Jericho, will deliberately settle its accounts with the Palestinian opposition wherever it is present, including Jordan, so the opposition in Gaza and Jericho would not be able to undermine Fatah's authority, paralyze its capabilities, or upset it.

We wish that a constructive democratic dialogue would have been initiated between the Palestinian leadership and its supporters on the one hand and all opposition factions and forces on the other in order to close the Palestinian ranks and unify the Palestinian position. Conflicts and settling of accounts by force and violence will weaken the Palestinian position and undermine the security and stability of the hosting states. When the spark of violence is triggered, it will not be easy to put it out or circumvent its repercussions.

Editorial: Peace Process Not 'Political Game'

JN0504094794 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 5 Apr 94 p 4

[Editorial: "Acid Test of Sanctions"]

[Text] Contrary to some interpretatons that try to portray Jordan's linking of its resumption of the peace talks to ending the siege against al-'Aqabah as political posturing, the Kingdom will prove that it means business when it comes to vital national interests. An upcoming multilateral meeting in the Hague on the environment will not be boycotted. Instead Jordan will be sending a junior diplomat to the meeting in a gesture that is meant to send a double message to the international community: The Kingdom is committed to the peace process; yet it will not accept to be taken for granted when a national interest is at stake. Jordan will thus attend the meeting to prove that we will go all the way to advance the cause of peace in the

region. But by doing so, at a minimum level of representation, we intend to drive the point home that unless our legitimate rights and concerns are properly addressed, we will have to do what is necessary in the future to protect this country and its people.

All through its history, Jordan has demonstrated its genuine interest in bringing about a just and lasting peace to the region. In the words of many American officials, Jordan has been an oasis of moderation in the area. The Kingdom never played the spoiler game. it is not about to start that now. The warning that the unfair and unjustifiable siege against al-'Aqabah should end was a call prompted by the country's real need to have that done right away.

For years, the Kingdom has been applying quiet diplomacy to have its concerns dealt with. But little attention did the decision-makers in Washington and the United Nations give to the country's requests, it seems. When Jordan exhausted all possible channels without receiving a positive answer, it resorted to the only option left to it: Let the whole world know that it is no longer willing to have its rights violated at a time when it is meeting all its obligations under international law and norms.

The United States, which repeatedly said it "understood" Jordan's concern, was supposed last week to discuss means of enforcing the sanctions against Iraq without continuing to hurt the Kingdom. Yet that did not happen, apparently because the various U.S. government organs needed more time to study the matter, but more likely because the Clinton administration did not want to appear as bowing to pressure from a small country like ours.

The U.S. would be wrong to think Jordan is merely playing a political game over the issue of sanctions and their implications on our economy. We do not need to make political capital this way. Jordan wants a speedy solution and has gone out of its way to prove its goodwill, by sending a delegate to the Hague's meeting. Washington should reciprocate. Nobody doubts the ability of the U.S. to find a suitable way of enforcing the sanctions against Iraq without hurting Jordan if it wanted to. Otherwise, Jordan has at least to be compensated for all the economic losses sustained as a result of those sanctions. After all, the way the international community chooses to deal wth this problem will be an important indication of what it might do to bring about real peace in the region. If it is going to be an imposed, shaky peace, Jordan might not need it anyway.

Boycott of Multilateral Session in Muscat Urged

JN0504121994 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 5 Apr 94 pp 28, 25

["Everyday" column by Tariq Masarwah: "Peace by Blockade and Impoverishment"]

[Text] In my opinion, the government should stay away from a session of Middle East multilateral talks set for 17 April in Muscat.

Washington seems bent on undercutting His Majesty King Husayn's courageous stand!! A meeting was supposed to have been held at the U.S. State Department last Thursday to review the Port of al-'Aqabah blockade, but was put off the day before, lest a lifting of the siege be preceived as a reaction to his majesty's position.

It seems very unlikely Washington will set a new date for the review before 17 April to make certain we will show up at the waters conference in Muscat. This is a challenge we must come to grips with, seeing that the U.S.-imposed blockade is to force us into a particular course of action advancing Israeli interests in relation to the peace process!!

The Port of al-'Aqabah blockade was not a UN decision; it was undertaken unilaterally by the United States.

The blockade has no connection with the UN Security Council sanctions imposed on Iraq. Both Turkey and Iran have seaports and both maintain more substantial economic ties than any such relations Jordan may have with Iraq. Why, then, does not the U.S. Navy inspect Turkish and Iranian ports?

In the matter of the blockade of the Port of al-'Aqabah, then, there is more at stake than ensuring Jordan's compliance with the Iraq sanctions resolution. At stake is a drive to impoverish us and force us to our knees and then incorporate us into Israel's strategic reach and transform us into a buffer between the Zionist entity and each of Syria, Iraq, and Lebanon and an extension of self-rule in Gaza and Jericho!

In any case, the so-called multilaterals do not seem to be getting anywhere. With Syria and Lebanon not putting in an appearance at talks supposedly tackling such issues as the environment and waters, what is there to talk about?

These talks are zero; they are little more than symposiums comparable to many gatherings held at Amman hotels. There does not seem to be much point in the multilaterals beyond the fact that they are convened in Arab capitals. The idea behind them, then, is to serve as gateways for Israeli teams and television crews, no matter how much we or our kinsfolk in the West Bank and Gaza may resent it.

Initially, Japan, Canada, and Switzerland were chosen as venues for the multilateral sessions. Israel demanded that they be held in Cyprus. Washington, however, decided that they should be hosted by Arab capitals.

Why do we attend such talks at all? Is it because Washington wants us to? If that is so, what about our national and pan-Arab interests? And, why should we oblige Washington while it points a gun at our head?

We call on the government to take its cue from his majesty the king. If the blockade is not lifted by 17 April, we should not send a delegation to Muscat. We will not go along with a peace settlement that sets out to impoverish us. Are we supposed to become as impoverished as the West bank and Gaza strip population before we become eligible for peace?

Information Minister Comments on New Media Law

NC0604203094 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1905 GMT 6 Apr 94

[News conference by Information Minister Michel Samahah with unidentified correspondents following a Cabinet meeting in Beirut—live]

[Excerpts] [Samahah] The Cabinet held its weekly meeting under the prime minister this evening. At the outset the Cabinet discussed the situation in the country, security, and the media. It then discussed its agenda and approved most of the topics, including the amendment of Legislative Decree No. 104/77 governing the publication law. The Cabinet approved two bills on concluding agreements between Lebanon and France on a cooperation protocol signed in Paris on 14 October 1993 and a cultural, scientific, and technical cooperation agreement signed in Paris on 14 October 1993.

The Cabinet approved a draft decree amending Article 14 of the lending law at the Agricultural, Industrial, and Land Lending Bank. It approved a decree transferring and appointing editors and clerks in some public departments. It also approved four decrees pertaining to the potable water authorities of al-Batrun, al-Miyah wa Miyah, 'Akkar, and al-Kurah.

The Cabinet formed the National Authority on Childhood and approved a memorandum of understanding with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia under which the Kingdom will give Lebanon $100 million to finance reconstruction projects.

[Correspondent] [words indistinct]

[Samahah] The Cabinet did not discuss this subject.

[Correspondent] [words indistinct]

[Samahah] Several amendments were made to the appeals attorney general's right under Article 23 to confiscate publications without suspending them. A mechanism for quick trials has been adopted and fines have been increased. The NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY will tonight release the amended bill approved by the government.

[Correspondent] [words indistinct]

[Samahah] This topic, which has caused an uproar, is groundless. Neither the government nor the information minister have thought of banning plays on television and radio. Whoever watches private Lebanese stations listens to all kinds of plays. In the media bill being prepared [words indistinct], it is one the articles being discussed by the ministerial committee on radio and television media. Emphasis is placed on the need for national theatrical production in every field. [passage omitted on the theater and culture]

[Correspondent] [words indistinct]

[Samahah] I believe the mission is big. It does not concern a person or a minister. It does not concern the Cabinet or the ministerial committee. We are striving to accelerate things with the necessary speed. I hope we will finish as soon as possible.

[Correspondent] [words indistinct]

[Samahah] We are awaiting a Cabinet decision. This decision [words indistinct] television and radio law after it is issued by the Chamber of Deputies. I hope this law will be issued soon. It is difficult to imagine Lebanon with only one company and once voice. But all companies and all radios must adhere to instructions.

Cabinet To Discuss Media Law, Pope's Visit

NC0604174594 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] The Cabinet convened a session at 1730 this evening chaired by Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri. The session, which is continuing in the Presidential Palace, is addressing several hot topics, primarily the media files and Pope John Paul II's upcoming visit to Lebanon. The session was preceded by a meeting between Prime Minister al-Hariri and media representatives in which the prime minister stressed that freedoms in Lebanon are safeguarded and nobody can harm them. He highlighted that the law sets out the framework of these freedoms and supports their existence.

Shiite Leader on Media Bill, Religious Summit

JN0204142494 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1225 GMT 2 Apr 94

[Interview with His Eminence Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams-al-Din, chairman of the Higher Islamic Shiite Council in Lebanon, by Kamal Tarabayh on 2 April; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Tarabayh] Your Eminence Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams-al-Din: During the Friday sermon you delivered yesterday, you made clear your support for the measures the government has taken, particularly with regard to the media issue. You said: Freedom should not give rise to chaos. At the same time, it should not result in repression or exclusion. My question is the following: More than 10 days have passed since private radio and television stations were banned from airing political news. Since then, a cabinet session was held. However, a new media bill has not been endorsed, as was previously announced. Your Eminence, why do you think that this situation is not tantamount to repression and exclusion, a development that shows a violation of the law?

[Shams-al-Din] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. As you have said, I addressed this issue in my Friday sermon yesterday. My support for the decisions made by the Council of Ministers last week was couched in general terms. I did not specifically address the decision made regarding the media. Last week, we

supported the government's decisions. We said that we could understand the decision that was made with regard to private media, and that we would wait until the following week to see what the government would do with regard to the media bill. The deadline announced for examining the media bill has elapsed without any discussion of this bill. That is why I raised the issue yesterday. I said I saw the delay as an unfavorable development. I added that efforts to endorse the bill must be expedited so that the current suspension of the private media may be remedied. It is also necessary to correct the previous status of the private media, namely, their illegal operation. Also, outside the context of this sermon, I have informed officials that they must expedite efforts to endorse the media bill so that the suspension does not become permanent and effectively turn into a law. We do not want the suspension to be prolonged. Last week, we said frankly that we do not at all agree to a monopoly of media activities by the official media, underscoring the fact that citizens have the right to listen to various viewpoints with regard to what is taking place. Hence, I do not agree with the view that the current situation is one of repression. Nonetheless, I do not at all advise that the current status be prolonged. We are closely following the situation to expedite the referral of the media bill to the Chamber of Deputies. We are also urging the Chamber of Deputies to quickly endorse this bill, God willing.

[Tarabayh] Your Eminence the Shaykh, have you received any assurances from officials regarding a desire to speed up the promulgation of a media law?

[Shams-al-Din] I have had no direct assurances. However, I know that the government wants to get it over with.

[Tarabayh] Your Eminence Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams-al-Din, I want to shift to another topic. In his Easter address, His Beatitude Maronite Patriarch Nasrallah Sfayr said the state has not treated all people equally, nor has it made the Christians feel that it is embracing them like other citizens. Do you subscribe to the idea that there is some defect in the way the state has been treating a part of the sons of the homeland?

[Shams-al-Din] I deeply regret, an I am saddened by, what has happened. I do not agree with the ideas presented by His Beatitude Patriarch Sfayr in his sermon yesterday. I do not approve of the content. We spoke last week with his beatitude about the form as well. First of all, to say that the state does not embrace Christians is not justified, as far as I am concerned. As for the justifications advanced by his beatitude the patriarch, he knows more about these. We will get in touch with him to discuss this view the way it was presented in yesterday's sermon. We think that the state looks after citizens equally. If some individuals or groups do not feel they are being looked after properly, maybe they themselves are responsible for this and not the state. I am not implying that the state is infallible and cannot make mistakes. Doubtless, there are mistakes committed by the state as a whole or by its institutions. However, these mistakes do not reach the degree espoused by his beatitude the patriarch. Therefore, I hope—and I have repeatedly said this publicly and secretly—that disputable issues will be presented in a way that contributes to unifying positions and helping the state assume its responsibilities and avoid making mistakes.

[Shams-al-Din] We respect his beatitude the patriarch. His voice is one of the pure and sincere voices. However, only God is infallible. We wanted to hear from him what I appealed for him to give—a speech of hope and confidence. As everybody knows, I am personally concerned about the Christian citizens, who are also my fellow men. We have a responsibility toward all citizens. I am not responsible for the Muslim citizens more than the Christian citizens. I am responsible for the Muslim citizens in terms of religion more than the Christians. On the political level and in terms of citizens' rights, I reiterate that I am also responsible for the Christians. I hope that all Lebanese in high positions feel the same. His beatitude the patriarch should also be responsible for the Muslim citizens as he is responsible for the Christian citizens.

[Tarabayh] Your eminence, my last question is the following: Is it possible to see your voices—as leaders of the spiritual communities in Lebanon—united and unifying the ranks through a religious summit, for example?

[Shams-al-Din] This is my objective. I believe that the existing situation requires the convening of such a spiritual summit. This issue has been my main concern for the past two days. I will make some moves in this direction in this week, because the present situation requires such a meeting even though relations with the other brothers are continuous. We always exchange opinions and we are in continuous contact. I spoke with the patriarch two days ago. I am thinking seriously about convening a spiritual summit.

[Tarabayh] Your Eminence Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams-al-Din, thank you.

[Shams-al-Din] May God preserve you all.

Buwayz on Domestic, Regional Issues

NC0604183294 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic (Friday Supplement) 1 Apr 94 p 5

[Interview with Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz by a panel of AL-AHRAM writers in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] The discussion began with writer Muhammad Salmawi greeting the Lebanese foreign minister. Salmawi wondered about the developments in that long-suffering fraternal country and said that we all wonder if an end to Lebanon's ordeal is in sight. Writer Lutfi al-Khuli then mentioned that we need to learn more about the events in Lebanon since the church bombing.

[Buwayz] Thank you, everyone. I think that the bombing of Sayyidat al-Najat Church, which came on the heels of the explosion in the al-Ibrahimi Mosque, was aimed at diverting attention from the latter explosion and rechanneling the attention of the international media. Another goal of the church bombing was to provoke the locals and lead them into thinking that the bombing was the doing of the resistance. A third motive was to incite Christians into demanding a change in the relations between Lebanon and Syria. I think that these were the motives behind the church bombing. It was a provocative and conspiratorial act.

Immediately after the investigations began it became clear that the above impressions were justified. I arrived at the scene just 20 minutes after the explosion, which occurred in my home town and electoral district. What I told you before were my first impressions, and they were vindicated. A number of individuals were arrested and they later confessed that they had links with Israeli officers. They admitted to having met Israeli officers in the border strip and to have received the information, instructions, money, and equipment for carrying out the bombing. Clearly, this was an attempt to disrupt the situation in Lebanon. This is hardly a secret anymore.

I recall remarks made by the head of the Israeli negotiating delegation to the effect that Israel finds the security equation in Lebanon unacceptable, particularly the presence of the resistance in the south, and will try to change it. About ten days ago, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that Israel cannot reach an understanding with Lebanon unless the current relations between Lebanon and Syria change.

Therefore, it is clear that what is happening is an attempt to change a number of domestic equations in order to promote certain political interests. True, the Lebanese were known during the war to be susceptible to infighting and to foreign plots and intervention, but this time the country's reaction was very mature. As a result, the bombing failed to create a factional division or spark sectarian strife.

The nation was almost unanimous that unity should be maintained. The public was aware that those who perpetrated this atrocity wanted to revive internal strife here. I believe that the nation has passed that test in good form, helped to no small extent by the progress in the investigations. I am a lawyer and therefore cannot prejudge things, but it seems that the evidence gathered in the case and the statements of the detainees have pieced together a clear picture. [passage omitted]

[Dr. Halah Mustafa] My question concerns the future political impact of Hizballah's presence in Lebanon. It has two parts: First, what effect will Hizballah's armed operations in the south have on the future of the peace process, specifically the Lebanese-Israeli peace process? Second, what is the nature of Hizballah's relations with the legitimate authorities in Lebanon? Because, given its ideological and political structure and its well known regional links, Hizballah may pose a real challenge to the authorities in the post-peace agreement era. Will the authorities in Lebanon be able to control this party in the future?

[Buwayz] In Lebanon Hizballah is part of the resistance. In fact, this party was established on the basis of certain commitments. Despite its ideological premises based on applying the Islamic shar'iah, Hizballah realizes that it is impossible to achieve its goal in Lebanon as long as Lebanon is a unified country. Thus, Hizballah's ideology takes the Lebanese situation into account and perhaps it is trying not to aggravate this situation as long as they need Lebanon to remain a unified homeland for all its sons and sects. Hizballah cannot impose its own interests on other sects. Regarding the second part of the question, I believe it is wrong to say that resistance should stop before guarantees are obtained on the return of southern Lebanon, because the resistance is not the reason for the occupation. The resistance emerged as a result of the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon and not vice versa. There would not have been any resistance had it not been for the occupation of part of Lebanon. The crux of the issue is the resistance, which was founded on a clear and just basis—that is, Israel's occupation of one-tenth of Lebanese territory, apart from its daily actions and arrests. It seems that no one wants to know that there are 400 Lebanese detainees in Israeli jails who have not been visited by any international organization.

The resistance is sometimes a manifestation of international impotence. The Lebanese Government is being asked to restrict or abolish the resistance; Israel constantly requests this. We say: How can the state abolish the resistance when it has no guarantees? This means that the Lebanese Government is being asked to become a suburb of the Israeli occupation. This might trigger a permanent civil war in Lebanon between those who believe that resistance is a legitimate right as long as Lebanese territory is occupied and those who want to end the resistance. Therefore the Lebanese Government will not enter into internal strife over this issue. The Lebanese Government's stand is that since Israel maintains that it has no designs on a single inch of Lebanese territory or one cubic meter of Lebanese water, a joint military committee can be formed to discuss a timetable for withdrawal as well as all security requirements in the south. This committee could also discuss hopes for the future. The Government could then say that there is a plan to liberate the south and that the resistance is preventing liberation. The resistance would then look like a hindrance to liberation instead of the only means of liberation. Israel continues to ask us why we do not commit ourselves to ending the resistance. We are not saying that we will not agree to take control of the security situation in the south until the last Israeli soldier withdraws. In stage two, a joint security committee could decide to link withdrawal to the establishment of security and stability. The Government will then be responsible for any violation originating on Lebanese territory. Certainly the resistance is not a military problem for

Lebanon. For the Lebanese state, the resistance is a political issue. When the political side of this problem is solved, there will be no problem. [passage omitted]

[Ahmad Nafi'] It was noticed that the issue of deploying the Army in the south was raised during U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to Lebanon to speed up the resumption of the peace negotiations. Talk about this issue then stopped. It is being said that there is still a plan for the Army's deployment in the south. What effect would this have on speeding up the implementation of Resolution 425?

[Buwayz] There is a fundamental point that we did not touch on when we spoke about the al-Ta'if accord and its achievements. The al-Ta'if accord allowed the state to build up the establishments. The Lebanese Army numbered no more than 10,000 soldiers and its armament was very weak when the civil war ended. The army now has around 40,000 soldiers and we can say that it is now a respectable force. Overall the Armed Forces now number 70,000 if we include the internal security forces and some other organs.

One of the achievements of the al-Ta'if accord is that it allowed Lebanon to rebuild its institutions. All the militias have been dissolved. Everyone recognizes that this is not a military problem, but a political one. Looked at from this angle, the Army's deployment in the south has dispelled the fears. It is not a military problem but a political one.

[Muhammad Salmawi] Has a decision been made in Lebanon to concede the resistance card?

[Buwayz] The consequences of making a premature decision and the absence of Israeli guarantees would create an internal problem, and perhaps even a civil war in Lebanon between the resistance's supporters and opponents. The state has not looked at this issue yet. What we are saying now is that the cabinet has decided to order the Army to deploy on all the Lebanese territory. But the deployment so far is limited to part of Beirut and other areas—that is, to around 65 percent of Lebanon's territory. Four days ago, the Cabinet expanded the Army's deployment. This means that the internal security situation will be under full control. But the decision does not mean stopping the resistance.

[Amin Muhammad Amin] There is supposedly a link between the Syrian peace track and the Syrian presence in Lebanon. Does such a link in fact exist or is this a mere Israeli assertion?

[Buwayz] There is a real and known link, but this linkage is Israel's and is not new. This linkage was first made after the 17 May 1985 agreement when the Lebanese negotiator had negotiated at length with the Israeli side. When they broached the issue of withdrawal from the south, the Israelis linked all these terms to Syria's approval and blessing of the agreement. That was not the first time that Israel had made the linkage. I will explain how Israel concocts the linkage. We tell Israel: UN Resolution 425 has been passed, so please implement it. In return, the Lebanese Government will pledge to impose full security and stability on both sides of the border. This resolution has nothing to do with regional developments and is independent of a peace agreement. This resolution demands Israel's withdrawal and says that the Lebanese state is responsible for security and stability. It is an independent resolution. We are and remain Arabs. So what is the Israeli reply? They say that Israel will withdraw only after the signing of a peace agreement with Lebanon, the peace agreement that involves recognition and relations. It says: To implement Resolution 425, the Lebanese state first has to impose security and stability. We will sign a peace with you when all the Arab problems are resolved and agreement is reached with the Palestinians, Syrians, and Jordanians. A separate peace agreement with Lebanon is impossible as long as this conflict is a comprehensive Arab effort and as long as this peace and its establishment can only be built on the general principles of the peace process. We say that Israel must withdraw in implementation of Resolution 425; and when progress is made with the Palestinians, Syrians, and Jordanians, we will, in solidarity with them, sign a full peace agreement with Israel. As you can see, it is Israel who links the situation in the south to the overall situation in the region and to the Syrian track in particular.

There is no link between Syria's presence and Israeli's. We believe the Syrian Army's presence in Lebanon to be necessary for a while to help the state rebuild its institutions and impose security and stability. We regard the Israeli Army's presence as an occupation that is opposed by all Lebanese. We needed the presence of an army at one stage but this need is decreasing daily since we have rebuilt our institutions, but there is an occupation that is creating a political crisis, an occupation in the full sense of the word. As far as we are concerned, this occupation is illegal. Politically and regionally, when Israel withdraws from the south, then there might be no justification for the presence of any foreign army in Lebanon, depending on the political and psychological conditions.

Legally, of course, we refuse to equate these two presences. [passage omitted]

U.S. Envoy Denies Israel Guilty of Church Bombing

NC0704065594 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 4 Apr 94 p 7

[From the "First News" section]

[Text] Official sources with first-hand access to security matters say that the bomb planted in Sayyidat al-Najat Church was brought from Israel and assembled at a Lebanese Forces' center in Lebanon.

[A related item from the same "First News" section adds: "Ministerial quarters have expressed puzzlement over the insistence of U.S. Ambassador Mark Hambley in his private discussions that Israel had nothing to do with the bombing in Sayyidat al-Najat Church in Zuq Mikha'il, a position that conflicts with the evidence accumulated by the security organs and judiciary."]

Reports on 'Afula Attack, Israeli, U.S. Reaction

JN0704075794 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] The death toll in the suicide operation that was carried out by 19-year-old Palestinian Ra'id Zakarinah in 'Afula yesterday has risen to nine. Fifty-two others were injured in the attack. The Palestinian youth was martyred in the operation, which marked the passing of 40 days since the Ibrahimi Mosque massacre. The youth who carried out the operation had been detained in occupation jails last year and had been tortured by the secret security organs for 75 days.

In a statement to London radio, Israeli Government Spokesman (Uri Drumi) urged the PLO to condemn the car bomb operation in 'Afula.

The United States also asked PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to condemn the car-bombing in 'Afula, northern occupied Palestine. U.S. State Department Spokesman Mike McCurry said: We certainly hope that 'Arafat would condemn this act of violence. The language would be of his choosing. McCurry described the operation as extremely serious. In a press release issued by the U.S. State Department on the operation last night, McCurry said that the United States condemns this act in the strongest terms. He stressed that the United States is committed to the security of Israel and to supporting it in its fight against so-called terrorism. At the same time, he stressed that the United States will continue efforts to advance the Middle East peace process. [In its review of the Syrian press headlines at 0445 GMT on 7 April, Damascus Radio carries the following headline without further elaboration: "The papers highlight the martyrdom operation that was carried out by a Palestinian youth against an Israeli bus, killing nine settlers and wounding 52 others"]

Syria Urges U.S. Action Before Christopher Visit

PM0604103494 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 2 Apr 94 p3

[Report by Salwa al-Ustuwani: "Syria: Christopher Should Remedy Situation Before Proceeding to the Region"]

[Excerpt] Damascus—Responsible sources in Damascus have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the Syrian leadership is waiting to see what U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will bring with him on his trip to the region in the near future. The sources said that Syria has expressed willingness to return to the Arab-Israeli negotiating table and that there is serious coordination with the Arab states concerned with these negotiations. The foreign ministers of these states are expected to hold a coordination meeting after Christopher's visit to Damascus to set a date for the resumption of the negotiations in Washington.

The Syrian sources added that the UN Security Council's recent resolution on the Hebron massacre offered a reasonable impetus for the resumption of the Washington negotiations, provided the Arab states involved in the peace negotiations get new U.S. assurances of Israeli commitment to the basis of peace, for only that can spare the peace process the difficult possibilities.

The responsible sources added that Israel is still adopting its same known position on the peace process, rejecting the basis, trying to prevent fulfillment of the peace requirements, seeking to keep the peace process at point zero, and placing obstacles in the way of any U.S. or international efforts to reactivate the process and ensure progress.

The sources also said: In anticipation of any U.S. move to iron out obstacles standing in the way of the peace process, Israel always makes provocative statements or creates explosive situations in order to contain such a move and prevent it from achieving its objective of boosting the peace process and driving it toward a just and comprehensive peace.

The Syrian sources added that Israel is now repeating the same practices before Christopher comes to the region, pursuing a calculated escalation of its policy of aggression and repression in southern Lebanon and in the occupied Arab territories, demonstrating more Israeli intransigence in the face of any constructive proposals the U.S. secretary of state might carry with him to the region with a view to extricating the peace process from the vicious circle it was thrown into by Israel through its intransigence.

The sources pointed out that the United States is requested to act firmly and to throw all its weight behind the peace process and to put the necessary pressure on Israel to compel it to change its anti-peace policy and commit it to the principles and basis of the peace process as specified in the Madrid formula and in the UN resolutions, particularly the land-for-peace principle.

The Syrian sources expressed the fear that the peace process might be in danger of collapse if the current Israeli policy continues, and that is why Syria believes that it is now Washington's responsibility to rescue the process by taking a firm stand based on committing Israel to full withdrawal and full recognition of Palestinian rights to prevent the peace process from moving toward the point of complete failure and the point of no return. Washington should remedy this situation before its foreign secretary goes to the region because the positions of the Arab states are clear and there are no problems for the U.S. secretary to discuss with them. [passage omitted]

Al-Asad: U.S. Bows To Israeli Pressure

NC0604143694 Paris AFP in English 1355 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Report by Elias Tohme]

[Text] Damascus, April 6 (AFP)—President Hafiz al-Asad has criticised the United States for bowing to Israeli pressure in the Middle East peace process, a Syrian official said Wednesday.

Al-Asad accused US President Bill Clinton of going back on what was agreed during their summit in Geneva on January 16, the official said, asking not to be named.

"The Geneva summit brought us hope that we could advance the peace process," he said.

"But nothing has been done because of Israeli intransigence and the Zionist lobby which is preventing the United States from playing an effective role," he added.

Al-Asad voiced the criticism during a meeting with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in Cairo on Tuesday, warning the peace process was in crisis "because of irresponsible Israeli positions," the official said.

After the talks Mubarak called on all parties in the stalled Arab-Israeli talks to "show flexibility" and said he hoped the negotiations would resume at the end of April in Washington.

Syria maintains there has been no progress following talks between Syrian and Israeli leaders in January and February in Washington because the United States did not put any pressure on Israel.

A foreign ministry spokesman said: "Syria committed itself to the peace process in the hope that the US administration would keep to its promises and play its role as an honest partner.

"But that role has never been put into action on the ground," he said, adding Syria would not give into blackmail.

Damascus has accused Washington of blackmailing it by refusing to remove Syria from a list of countries known to be sources for drug- traffickers.

Damascus said it had made considerable efforts to end drug- trafficking, particularly in Lebanon's al-Biqa' valley, but the US decision means Syria will be unable to receive certain aid handouts.

Meanwhile, in Washington senior Israeli Labor Party official Nissim Zvili said the US administration backed Syria's call for a full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

"They (the United States) completely support Syria on the sovereignty issue. It is not easy for us," he said, adding Israel was not ready to trade the plateau for peace.

President Bill Clinton's administration has sought to mediate differences between the two sides over the strategic land seized by Israel in the Middle East war in 1967.

'Source' Criticizes U.S. Role in Peace Process

JN0604182594 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1715 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] A Syrian information source has said that the Syrian president's talks in Cairo dealt mainly with the peace process, which is now undergoing a veritable crisis as a result of the lack of seriousness in the Israeli government's stands.

The source said that, in addition to Syria's criticism of Israel, Damascus blames Washington for its stands. which contradict peace, contrary to what was agreed on during al-Asad-Clinton summit in Geneva last January. The Geneva summit revived hopes for promoting the Middle East peace process but no progress has been realized because of Israel's intransigence and the Zionist lobby's moves in the United States to hamper any effective and pressuring U.S. role. Syria is also of the opinion that the Syrian-Israeli negotiations in Washington last January and February on the level of delegation heads ended without any results worth mentioning because Washington did not bring pressure to bear on Israel.

Syria also blames Washington for its failure to denounce Israel after the Ibrahimi Mosque massacre, for preventing the Security Council from adopting a resolution on this issue for three weeks, and for the reported pledge by President Clinton to the Zionist organizations upholding unified Jerusalem as capital of the Hebrew state, contrary to UN Security Council Resolution 242 and the policies of the previous U.S. administrations, which refused to recognize the annexation of Arab Jerusalem and insisted on considering it part of the occupied territories.

Damascus is equally displeased with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's announcement on his readiness to visit the region but without exercising any pressure on Israel. Moreover, the United States insisted on keeping Syria on the list of states that did not cooperate with it in the field of combating drugs.

Asserting that, with all these moves, the U.S. Administration aims to deny Syria any Economic assistance, the Syrian information source reiterated that his country had neither asked nor obtained any such assistance in the past, and that it joined the peace process hoping that Washington would fulfill its pledges and play the role of a full, fair, and just partner. This role has not materialized, however, into tangible results yet, the source said.

Al-Asad 'Turned Down' Invitation To Visit Tehran

PM0604160094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 6 Apr 94 p4

[Text] Tehran, London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has turned down an Iranian invitation to visit Tehran later this month to discuss the Middle East peace process.

Sources in Tehran said yesterday that the invitation came in a written message from "Supreme Leader" 'Ali Khamene'i delivered to al-Asad in Damascus by Iranian Majles Deputy Speaker Hasan Ruhani.

Iranian media had reported that President al-Asad would visit Tehran this April to discuss "a new strategy for the Middle East" with Khamene'i and his aides. But sources in Tehran said yesterday that al-Asad accepted the invitation without setting a date for it. Ruhani, who is also secretary general of the Iranian National Security Council, also delivered a message from President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani. Khamene'i had openly urged Syria to withdraw from the "American peace process" and support the Palestinian factions which pledged to torpedo any agreement with Israel.

While in Damascus, Ruhani received a number of Palestinian radical leaders including Ahmad Jibril, Fathi Shaqaqi, and Colonel Abu-Musa [Sa'id Musa]. He invited George Habash and Nayif Hawatimah to meet with him but they sent representatives.

Ruhani, who is considered to be a member of the small circle of mullahs at the center of power in Tehran, also met with leaders of Lebanon's Hizballah.

The Iranian sources say that he asked the Hizballah leaders to persuade the Shiite leaders in Lebanon to accept Khamene'i as the highest Shiite authority. Senior Shiite leaders in Lebanon, including Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah and Muhammad Mahdi Shams-al-Din had expressed support for 'Ali Mohammad Sistani, the Iranian mullah living in al-Najaf in Iraq.

Some reports indicate that the Palestinian radical groups have expressed displeasure with Iran for failing so far to provide the massive aid it had promised at a special conference held in Tehran in February 1993.

Iranian sources attribute the delay in providing aid for these groups to Tehran's cash flow problems, but in a recent speech Khamene'i reaffirmed his government's commitment "to aid the Palestinian struggle" against the PLO-Israel agreement.

Tehran analysts believe that the summit meeting between Presidents al-Asad and Bill Clinton in Geneva last January was a turning point of historic importance in relations between Washington and Damascus. One of the results of that meeting is perhaps Damascus's clear attempts to gradually distance itself from Tehran's radical policies, according to the analysts.

Iranian Delegation Reaffirms Support for Factions

PM0604152894 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Apr 94 p2

[Reports by Salwa al-Ustuwani and "news agencies": "Tehran Reaffirms Support for Palestinian Opposition Factions"]

[Text] Damascus—An Iranian Majles delegation headed by Deputy Speaker Hasan Ruhani has started talks in Damascus with Syrian People's Assembly and other senior Syrian officials.

In Damascus yesterday, a highly placed Iranian official reaffirmed Tehran's support for the 10 Palestinian factions opposed to the PLO-Israel Gaza-Jericho autonomy agreement.

A Palestinian spokesman said that Iranian Deputy Majles Speaker Hasan Ruhani emphasized that position when he met with the leaders of the 10 factions at the Iranian Embassy in Damascus yesterday.

The spokesman said that the talks covered the situation in the region after the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre and that the Iranian official reaffirmed his country's support for the Palestinian intifadah against the Israeli forces in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. He added that the discussions also covered means and ways of providing aid for the intifadah and the 10 factions.

Ruhani, who leads a high-ranking delegation, told reporters on his arrival in Damascus the day before yesterday that he was carrying two messages for Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad from 'Ali Khamene'i and President Hashemi-Rafsanjani on the issues of peace, the Gulf region, and bilateral relations between the two countries.

Some observers in Damascus believe that the two messages also deal with President al-Asad's forthcoming visit to Tehran scheduled to take place in the second half of this month.

Al-Asad Receives Cypriot Health Minister

JN0604175894 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] At 1300 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Cypriot Health Minister Manolis Khristofidhis and his accompanying delegation. The meeting was attended by Health Minister Dr. Muhammad Iyad al-Shatti and the Cypriot ambassador in Damascus.

Khristofidhis conveyed to the president the greetings of Cypriot President Glavkos Kliridhis. The president thankfully accepted the greetings and asked Khristofidhis to convey his greetings and best wishes to President Kliridhis.

Discussion during the meeting dealt with the situation in the region, the peace process, and bilateral relations.

India

U.S. Deputy Secretary Talbott Begins Visit

BK0704045294 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1630 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott arrived here this evening on a three-day visit. Talking to newsmen on his arrival, Mr. Talbott said the Clinton administration attach great significance to Indo-U.S. relations. He said India is important to them and Washington wants to ensure that relations with New Delhi expand and strengthen in the years to come.

[Begin recording] [Correspondent Kamini Sawhny] India is Mr. Strobe Talbott's first destination abroad after taking over as America's deputy secretary of state. Mr. Talbott, who arrived in New Delhi this evening on the first leg of his overseas tour, is here on a three-day visit. The United States has been India's largest trading partner, and with the liberalization of the economy, the trade turnover between the two countries is expected to touch $7 billion this year. Indian exports to the U.S. were up by 20 percent last year, while about 40 percent of all investments approved by the government in the same year were from U.S. firms. So economic issues will probably be high on the agenda when Mr. Talbott, who is the highest ranking U.S. State Department official to visit India from the Clinton administration, meets with Indian officials tomorrow.

[Talbott] My government attaches considerable significance to my visit here. President Clinton and Secretary of State Christopher have asked me to come here in order to consult with Prime Minister Rao and other officials of the Indian Government on concrete ways in which we can give together new impetus and new scope to U.S.-Indian relations.

[Sawhny] Nonproliferation is also likely to be a key subject for discussion. According to reports, the U.S. proposal to hold a multilateral conference on nuclear nonproliferation and regional security in South Asia is likely to be conveyed to the government. The backbone of India's nuclear policy has been the Rajiv Gandhi action plan of 1988, which calls for a regime that is global and nondiscriminatory. Another related issue that India may take up is the proposal to supply 38 F-16 aircrafts to Pakistan as a one-time waiver of the Pressler Amendment. India feels that this will escalate the arms tension in the region. The post of U.S. ambassador in New Delhi, which continues to be vacant for over a year, will also figure in the talks. At the end of his visit here, Mr. Talbott is headed for Islamabad. [end recording]

Prime Minister Briefs French Foreign Minister Juppe

Discuss Kashmir Situation

BK0404140794 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Text] France has opposed internationalizing the Kashmir issue by Pakistan. The visiting French foreign minister, Mr. Alain Juppe, assured his country's support to India's stand and hoped talks between India and Pakistan will resume soon to sort out the issue. The matter came up for detailed discussions at his meeting with the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao; the external affairs minister, Mr. Dinesh Singh; and the home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan. Mr. Rao briefed Mr. Juppe about Pakistan's support to terrorism on Indian soil and Islamabad's interference to undermine India's territorial integrity. The prime minister said India is open to bilateral discussions with Pakistan.

Spokesman Details Talks

BK0504045494 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1435 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Statement by unidentified official spokesman on the call by French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe on Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao and Home Minister S.B. Chavan on 4 April]

[Text] While briefing newsmen, the official spokesman stated that the French foreign minister, Mr. Alain Juppe, called on our prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, today morning. Both sides emphasized the traditional affinity between India and France. The French foreign minister stressed the need for increased economic cooperation in the light of economic reforms in India and said that it was their intention to attend the joint commission meeting at the ministerial level later this year. A visit by a French business delegation is also envisaged this year.

Our prime minister briefed Mr. Juppe on our relations with neighboring countries and underlined the challenge to our territorial integrity on account of Pakistan's interference and support to terrorism on Indian soil. The prime minister indicated that India was open to bilateral discussions with Pakistan. Mr. Juppe said that France opposed internationalization of the Kashmir dispute. He said that they understood India's position and hoped that bilateral discussions between India and France [as received] would soon be resumed.

On NPT [Nonproliferation Treaty], our prime minister mentioned that the NPT review conference of 1995 provided suitable opportunity for a genuine review of the treaty to make it universal and nondiscriminatory. In this context, the prime minister pointed out that India's action plan presented an approach which was exemplary.

While briefing newsmen, the official spokesman stated that the French foreign minister, Mr Alain Juppe, met our home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, today. The discussions focussed on terrorism and fundamentalism aided and instigated by Pakistan. He briefed Mr. Juppe extensively on the J and K [Jammu and Kashmir] situation and the problems posed by Pakistani support in the context of our efforts to revive the political process in Jammu and Kashmir. The home minister said that the phenomenon of terrorism was not something faced by India alone and a global approach was necessary to counter this menace.

Mr. Juppe said that France also had been a victim of terrorism at different periods of its history and would welcome an exchange of views and information through bilateral channels. The home minister mentioned that India was awaiting the visit of the French interior minister, Mr. Charles Pasqua, who has been invited by our home minister and the invitation has been accepted.

ESCAP Session Continues in New Delhi

Many Support GATT Stand

BK0704024894 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] At the ESCAP [Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific] session in New Delhi, many developing countries have voiced full support to India's stand against the creation of new trade barriers after the GATT agreement comes into force. These countries include Malaysia, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, South Korea, China, and Hong Kong. The Bangladesh delegate urged the ESCAP secretariat to send a message to the forthcoming ministerial conference on GATT at Marrakech on this matter. The Indonesian delegate also said environment and social issues should not be used as an excuse for interfering in the internal affairs of any country and for imposing conditions on development assistance.

New speakers participating in the plenary and the Committee on Regional Economic Cooperation said linking trade and nontrade issues poses a threat to the exports from the third world. It also negates the spirit of free trade under the Uruguay Round of Trade and Tariff Agreement. While some least developed countries and New Zealand, Australia, and Japan remained more or less noncommittal, the U.S. delegate was quoted as saying that his country is not trying to impose any protectionism nor reduce the advantage of the developing nations.

Other issues that dominated the ESCAP session today relate to the problem of infrastructure development and the need to ensure environment friendly development programs. Most delegates said better network of roads and communication facilities is important for boosting economic growth in the region. Several countries voiced the need for additional funds for financing the implementation of the agenda adopted at the Rio Earth Summit.

Technology Transfer Discussed

BK0704085094 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] The Delhi ESCAP [Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific] session has finalized an action program for regional cooperation in technology transfer. It has been endorsed by the committee for regional economic cooperation which met yesterday under the chairmanship of the commerce secretary, Mr. Tejinder Khanna. The action program seeks to promote indigenous technological capabilities in the member countries. The private sector is sought to be involved in the implementation. Special attention will be given to the least-developed landlocked and island countries.

India has called for greater regional cooperation in the application of space technology, particularly for monitoring the management of environment. The environment secretary, Mr. P. Rajamani, told the ESCAP meeting that the Indian space program is tailored to meet the development needs of the country. He welcomed the move for a ministerial-level conference and offered New Delhi's full cooperation.

Today's discussions will (?cover), among other things, poverty alleviation through economic growth and social development.

Six Soldiers, Seven Civilians Killed in Kashmir

BK0704022194 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Six Indian soldiers were killed and seven civilians were martyred in clashes between the freedom fighters and Indian troops in various areas of the valley in occupied Kashmir. Four soldiers of the Indian paramilitary force were killed and one freedom fighter was martyred in a clash at (Rayar) in Badgam today. Biswajit Mandal, a military officer of the Border Security Force, was killed and four personnel were injured in Batamalu. A report says that an Indian soldier shot and killed his officer, Man Singh, at Nagrota camp. In Rafiabad, 24 people were arrested while 12 houses and shops were set ablaze in the Kangan area of Srinagar. Meanwhile, the All Party Hurriet Conference at a meeting in Srinagar reaffirmed its stand that the Kashmir issue can be resolved only when the Kashmiris are granted an opportunity to exercise their right to self-determination under UN auspices. The meeting, presided over by Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, rejected any attempt by India to initiate the so-called political process.

20 Killed in Intergang Warfare in Kashmir

BK0704110394 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] In Kashmir valley, 20 militants have been killed in inter-gang warfare during the last fortnight. The group clashes between different militant organizations have spread to almost every district of the valley. Yesterday, a self-styled district commander of the JKLF [Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front] was killed by Hizbul Mojahedin at Chandpura in Srinagar. After the incident, thousands of people came out in the streets in Srinagar shouting slogans against the militants. Last week also, a procession was taken out in (Ashmukan) town by local residents to protest against the activities of the militant groups.

Iran

'Brave' Hamas Attack at Israeli Bus Stop Viewed

NC0704055894 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Commentary by News Research and Commentaries Group]

[Text] The brave and martyr-seeking attack by a Palestinian mujahid at a Zionist bus stop—on the 40th day of the massacre of fasting worshipers in the al-Khalil mosque—which resulted in the death of eight Zionists and the wounding of more than 50 others, shows, first and foremost, that the era of the intifadah is different from the past. By undertaking responsibility for this operation, the Palestinian Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas stated that the car explosion at a Zionist bus stop in 'Afula in the north of occupied Palestine is in answer to the massacre of the fasting Palestinian worshipers at the al-Ibrahimi shrine and in order to avenge their unjustly shed blood.

Political observers believe that this attack demonstrates the strength of the Palestinian Islamic movement in organizing and carrying out jihad operations. Yesterday's attack took place on the anniversary of the commencement of the intifadah and the Zionist forces were on full alert. The place where the operation took place was north of occupied Palestine, or, in other words, outside the West Bank and Gaza Strip, a place where carrying out operations is extremely difficult. The admission by the Zionist chief of staff that the Zionist regime's military forces will not be able to prevent such operations in the future proves this point even further.

Since its founding, the Zionist regime has unilaterally massacred and rendered homeless the people of Palestine and Arab countries that share borders with occupied Palestine. Because of the unequal military balance and extensive support by international powers for the usurping regime, the reaction by the people of Palestine and the world has not been strong enough to stop this inhuman process. However, now that the Muslim Palestinians have been armed with the spirit of jihad and martyrdom, the situation has completely changed.

Seven years ago, with the commencement of the intifadah and the persistent struggle against the Zionist regime, the Palestinians gave up the past beliefs of political leaders of Palestine in defending the rights of the Palestinian Muslims through international organizations. By relying on the Palestinian people and their Islamic belief, they set off on a path that has proven to be effective and, God willing, will lead to victory in the not very distant future.

Velayati Urges UN To Prevent Fall of Gorazde

LD0604173994 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Serb forces are only 5 km away from the Muslim-inhabited town of Gorazde. UN reports indicate that the Serb forces have advanced 10 km in the area, but UN officials still say that Gorazde is not facing a serious threat.

Meanwhile, the Islamic Republic of Iran has called for speedy action by the United Nations to prevent the fall of Gorazde and the massacre of its innocent inhabitants. In a letter to the United Nations, our country's foreign affairs minister has also made reference to the fact that Gorazde was earlier declared a safe area. The letter, furthermore, cautions against the occurrence of yet another tragedy in Bosnia.

The Islamic countries have also started a series of diplomatic initiatives in the United Nations with the aim of inducing the Security Council to pass a resolution to prevent the fall of Gorazde.

Velayati Interview Sums Up African Tour

LD0604112094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Interview with Foreign Minister Velayati by unidentified correspondent upon Velayati's return on 6 April from visiting African countries—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Please tell us what issues you discussed and what agreements you reached during your tour of some African countries?

[Velayati] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Before the revolution, the regime did not pay much attention to ties with Africa in its foreign policy. After the revolution, for various reasons, that attention was considerably increased. There was first the expansion of diplomatic ties. The next step was the expansion of cultural, economic, commercial, and industrial ties. By the expansion of industrial ties, I mean those countries are eager to use Iran's industrial goods. During that period there were very good examples of cooperation with those countries in that field. The inception of temporary or permanent trade and industrial exhibitions in some countries was one of the first steps taken and was very successful in those countries.

One of the main reasons for the extraordinary welcome by all the African countries in which we opened exhibitions is that not many countries can compete with Iranian prices, while the quality of our goods is relatively high, particularly the quality of goods offered there. In some commercial and economic fields, the private sector could definitely be more active, and in some other fields the public sector. Without exception all the African countries we visited asked for the expansion of economic and commercial cooperation.

[Correspondent] To what extent could cooperation with Africa help our presence on the international scene?

[Velayati] Because of the end of the cold war, some Western countries are today interfering more blatantly in the internal affairs of Third World countries, particularly African countries, without any consideration for their endemic characteristics. They have disturbed the situation in some African countries. The people of Africa are wise to this and, therefore, seek cooperation with countries that have particularly more influence on the international scene.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much.

[Velayati] Thank you.

Explosion at Intelligence Office Reported

NC0704082694 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1630 GMT 6 Apr 93

[Text] An incoming report from the Oshnaviyeh party committee states that recently an explosion took place at the regime's intelligence office and damaged the building. No reports have been received on the number of people killed or wounded in the explosion.

$800-Million Loan To Repay Italian Debts Received

NC0704073094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Iran and Italy have signed a long-term financial agreement and have thus ended their differences in this field. The Central News Unit reports that on the basis of this financial agreement, which was signed by a delegation of the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Italian financial officials and the state Italian insurance organization (SACE), an $800-million credit has been placed at the disposal of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

On the basis of this agreement, all debts by state and private companies and by Iranian importers to their Italian trade partners that have not been paid up until now will be paid by this credit. All the debts of 1373 [year beginning 21 March 1994] that will mature within the coming months will also be paid by this credit. The credit covers all purchases that are covered by the Italian state insurance company (SACE). The credit is for a period of six years, comprising two years of a grace period and four years of repayment.

The Central Bank has previously signed similar financial agreements with Germany, Japan, Switzerland, Austria, and Poland.

Commentary Defends Efforts To Fight Drug Trade

LD0604154394 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Robert Gilbert Monday [4 April] contended that the Islamic Republic of Iran, Nigeria, Burma, and Syria are either collaborating in drug trafficking or are not taking preventive steps in this regard.

Of course this is not the first time that Washington has levelled such charges in an attempt to counter the independent policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran. In the past, too, propaganda tactics such as production of nuclear weapons, aiding international terrorism, and violation of human rights have been repeated time and again.

Apparently, the U.S. State Department has asserted a new charge on account of the earlier subjects getting old. This subject alleges that Iran has not helped prevent the drug trafficking destined for Europe and America. The charge is being levelled at a time when numerous reports have already been released by international agencies on the successful campaign launched by the Islamic Republic of Iran against production and sale of drugs. Included among them are the recent comments of Mr. George Canary, executive director of the UN drug control program stationed in Vienna. He has declared that Iran is making fervent efforts to combat drug trafficking. Also mention can be made of the recent report of the international department for drug control, whose officials toured the bordering areas of Iran and Pakistan. The report, which has been released as an official document of the United Nations, has said: Even though Iran is not at the highest level in terms of per capita investment on drug control, it is very close to this point. The report also stresses that the Islamic Republic of Iran is actively carrying out an anti-drug campaign on regional and international level.

It should be mentioned that Islamic Iran, which is itself a victim of the attacks by the drug traffickers, has launched widescale efforts to combat the merchants of death during the past years, and tens of thousands of its security forces have laid down their lives in fighting the drug traffickers who try to smuggle narcotics from Pakistan and Afghanistan to Europe and the United States.

Official figures indicate that the amount of narcotics seized in 1979 stood at 11,000 tonnes, whereas in 1992 it reached 66,000 tonnes, which reflects a remarkable success. More interesting is the fact that when the Islamic Republic of Iran, in order to uproot the drug trafficking, brings to the gallows the drug lords who have been involved in the trade for years, the U.S. Administration and its allies condemn Iran for violating the human rights.

In the end, one can only say that in this connection Washington's political scandals are so clear that there is hardly any need for a further look at its performance. It would suffice to remind that it is the United States where the heroin manufacturing plant makers are living, and where the big drug barons are based with their widescale resources.

Pakistan

Bhutto on Nuclear Program, U.S. Ties, Kashmir

BK0704083094 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] The prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, has categorically stated that Pakistan will not roll back its nuclear program. Addressing a news conference in the Parliament House in Islamabad this morning, she said this is a firm commitment of her government with the people of Pakistan. She said Pakistan will not open its nuclear facilities for inspection unilaterally as this would be discriminatory and against the wishes of the Pakistani nation. Ms. Benazir Bhutto emphasized that there should be an even-handed approach by the United States on the problem of nuclear nonproliferation, arms race, and missiles race, but these are to be resolved in South Asian subcontinent. Pakistan has given several positive proposals for nuclear nonproliferation in South Asia, but these have been rejected by India.

The prime minister said Pakistan wanted to improve bilateral relations with the United States not for acquisition of F-16 aircraft or for arms purchases, but because Pakistan and the United States have a history of old friendship. She said the United States is now the only superpower and so it has a role to play in the solution of the Kashmir problem. Referring to the U.S. deputy secretary of state's forthcoming visit to Pakistan, Ms. Benazir Bhutto said Pakistan will inform Mr. Strobe Talbott that it believes in nonproliferation in South Asia, but there should a regional approach to it.

She also urged the opposition to give up its negative attitude of confrontation and join hands with the government on the sensitive issues of national importance like nuclear and Kashmir.

Spokesman Views Kashmir, Talbott Visit

BK0604144194 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 6 Apr 94

[Text] Pakistan has refuted press reports as totally baseless suggesting that the United States has proposed to Islamabad to freeze the Kashmir issue. A Foreign Office spokesman briefing newsmen in Islamabad today said Pakistan has received neither any paper nor any non-paper on this subject. [sentence as heard]

To a question, the spokesman said Pakistan resents deeply the proliferation of false and defamatory statements from India alleging the involvement of Pakistan's Inter Service Intelligence in the internal affairs of India and other neighboring states. He said Pakistan Government rejects categorically statements made in this connection by the chief minister of Assam, director general of its police, and the article in the Indian newspaper THE INDEPENDENT.

To another question, the spokesman said the entire spectrum of Pakistan-U.S. relations would come under review during the three-day visit of the U.S. deputy secretary of state, Mr. Strobe Talbott, beginning from Friday [8 April]. The spokesman said the agenda of talks is very broad and we are prepared to discuss all the issues faced.

Editorial: Resolve Kashmir To Avert Nuclear War

BK0604141794 Rawalpindi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 6 Apr 94 p 10

[Editorial: "The Danger of a Nuclear War in the Subcontinent—the Need To Resolve the Kashmir Issue"]

[Text] Commenting on the visit of Strobe Talbott, the U.S. deputy secretary of state, to the Indian subcontinent beginning 6 April, Voice of America [VOA] has said that the danger of the outbreak of a nuclear war during the next few years is nowhere in the world so great as in Asia. In view of this apprehension, Talbott will exert pressure on Pakistan and India to end the race to manufacture nuclear weapons and missiles. The VOA commentary also expressed doubts about the success of Talbott's visit because no country in the subcontinent can instantly sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT]. They might not even be ready to have their nuclear installations inspected. This is why the United States anticipates a growing danger of a nuclear threat in the subcontinent.

The question is why the United States is not trying to find out the reasons behind this serious threat. It has become well-known throughout the world that India has repeatedly been threatening a limited war on the Kashmir issue and trying to establish a justification for it by alleging that Pakistan is "abetting terrorists." Two wars had already been fought in the subcontinent on Kashmir, and every time it was India which started the aggression. At first, in 1948 it captured the Muslim-majority state of Kashmir adjoining Pakistan by deviating from the predetermined agenda on the partition and independence of India. When this was resisted by the Kashmiris and Pakistan, then India went to the United Nations where the Security Council adopted a cease-fire resolution on the condition that the people of Kashmir would be given an opportunity to freely express their views on Kashmir's accession either to India or Pakistan. Although India had then accepted the resolution, for the last half a century it has been avoiding a plebiscite while claiming Kashmir is an integral part of India.

Four years ago, the Kashmiri people indigenously launched a crusade to get rid of the Indian yoke of slavery. India is awfully baffled by the success of this

struggle and it is quite possible for her to embark on an onslaught against Pakistan anytime as she did in the past. India has equipped itself with the most modern, dangerous, and destructive weapons. It expanded its blue water navy exceeding its legitimate defense needs. It has been given the target of control in the Indian Ocean region. [sentence as published] It did not stop there. India turned itself into a nuclear power. It has been confirmed by CIA records that India possesses enough enriched uranium to produce 20 to 100 bombs. India's entire attention is now focused to the production of long-range missiles as carriers of nuclear warheads. It is conducting experiments in this regard.

The irony is that India has not accepted any global restriction on its nuclear program nor is it ready to sign the NPT. Pakistan has every right to do everything to ensure its defense. It can be said with full confidence that if India did not dare wage a war so far, it was because of Pakistan's nuclear program. Still, the Pakistani nuclear program is being made a target of criticism by the United States and anti-Islamic powers. The United States has even suspended economic and military aid to Pakistan so as to exert pressure. It is refusing to supply the F-16 planes to Pakistan although Pakistan has already paid for them. It is being proposed now that Pakistan will have to cap the nuclear program and sign the NPT in future.

Pakistani Army Chief General Abdul Waheed is currently visiting the United States. He has repeatedly made the position clear that Pakistan is always willing to abandon its nuclear program. It has repeatedly said that a solution to the nuclear issue should be found on a regional basis and India should also be included in the NPT so that at least a nuclear confrontation in the Indian subcontinent can be averted. However, India not only rejected the regional solution, it has also termed the NPT contrary to its national interests. In fact, it is not in Pakistan's interest either to sign the NPT without determining the balance of power between Pakistan and India and securing a guarantee for it. It is becoming more and more difficult for Pakistan to counter India with conventional weapons. And in this age, we cannot face India depending only on our faith in God, because our faith in God has also dwindled.

The fact is that so long as the Kashmir issue remains unresolved and a permanent peace agreement is not concluded simultaneously, there will always be a threat of aggression from India. Therefore, if the United States is interested, even slightly, in establishing peace in the subcontinent, then it becomes obligatory on the part of the United States to allow the Kashmiris an opportunity to express their views as provided by the Security Council resolutions. Obviously, at a time when the Kashmiris are engaged in a jihad against the Indian troops, their verdict will be in favor of accession to Pakistan. The key to the establishment of peace in the subcontinent lies in this verdict.

Government Urged To Ignore Pressure on Kashmir

BK0404152994 Rawalpindi JANG in Urdu 3 Apr 94 p 3

[Editorial: "New U.S. Proposals, Do Not Accept Pressures"]

[Text] In the past few days, it has become clear that the United States is considering various proposals to realize the goal of nuclear nonproliferation in South Asia. These proposals are being put forward to both Pakistan and India formally and informally. Although the exact nature of the proposals has not come up at the official level, it has been guessed from newspaper reports that their foremost aim is to do away with nuclear arms proliferation in South Asia. As Pakistan has made it clear that the nuclear program in the subcontinent is linked to the Kashmir issue, the United States has put forward some proposals to resolve the Kashmir dispute. According to the latest report, the United States has proposed to Pakistan that the Kashmir dispute be put on hold for some time. Meanwhile, a conference is to be held and attended by Pakistan, India, the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Russia, and China to discuss all the aspects of security in South Asia. The conference will propose a strategy that guarantees and becomes a source for stability for the South Asian subcontinent. The United States will expect from any such conference some strategy to prevent the proliferation of nuclear arms in the region.

If Pakistan has refused to accept this proposal, there are solid reasons behind it. First of all, it is not clear what the intention of putting the Kashmir issue in cold storage is and what the demands after the strategy is adopted would be. Will it mean that Pakistan should stop raising its voice against Indian atrocities in occupied Kashmir? Likewise, will it mean that Pakistan should not raise the Kashmir issue at international fora? In other words, will it mean that Pakistan should stop its moral, diplomatic, and political support to the Kashmiris? It is obvious that this will be impossible and unthinkable to Pakistan. The American proposal also does not make it clear when the proposed conference will be held and the outcome of the deliberations emerge, and whether that outcome will be acceptable to Pakistan? Another strong objection to the proposal is that its basic aim is not to resolve the Kashmir issue, but to put forward a strategy that prevents the proliferation of nuclear arms and missiles in South Asia. In Pakistan's view, giving preference to this issue has the similar connotation of dangling a carrot before the horse.

The Kashmir issue is the root cause for all the problems and hardship in the South Asian subcontinent. As long as efforts are not taken to resolve the issue in accordance with the UN resolutions, no other problem can be resolved. If the Pakistan Government adopts a stance that the above U.S. proposal is impractical and unacceptable in the present context, it is fully understandable. We hope that the Pakistan Government will not bow to

any kind of external pressure and will not take up as worthy of consideration proposals such as putting the Kashmir dispute on hold and initiating discussions on the Kashmir issue. Despite all the political differences between the opposition and the government, the entire nation and political circles are unanimous and united on Kashmir and on Pakistan's nuclear program. The government should never be cowed by any external pressure and should remain as firm as a rock on its principled stand. The entire nation is behind the government on this question and it need not have any anxiety over it, but it should make the country's policy clear to the external forces with more vigor and clarity.

Bhutto Receives DPRK Deputy Prime Minister

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[Text] The deputy prime minister of Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Mr. Hong Song-nam, paid a courtesy call on the prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, in Islamabad today. During the meeting, the prime minister hoped that the visit of the deputy prime minister of Korea would result in increased economic cooperation between the two countries. Mr. Hong Song-nam conveyed greetings and best wishes of the president of North Korea, Mr. Kim Il-song, for the prime minister which she fully reciprocated.